

FROM DATA TO **CHANGE.**

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Annual Report 2025

AdvaCenter
Information on Equality and Social Justice in Israel



Dr. Yael Hasson

From the CEO

Reflecting on my first year as Executive Director of the Adva Center, I am deeply aware of the responsibility and purpose this role carries. Taking the helm as Israel faced ongoing war, widespread displacement, and a deepening democratic crisis sharpened the urgency of our mission — and made the fractures in our social fabric painfully apparent.

At Adva, we asked a central question: How do public systems distribute resources, risk, and protection — and to whom? Throughout the year, we worked tirelessly to ensure that issues of structural inequality remained at the forefront of policy. Our research not only mapped disparities but also illuminated the lived experiences behind the data. By producing analyses of the State Budget, monitoring income inequality, and highlighting the drivers of poverty and food insecurity, we provided policymakers and civil society with actionable insights. We examined the war’s specific impacts, monitored recovery budgets and policies, and tracked gender inequality and wage gaps, empowering targeted advocacy and measurable change.

Our research informed Knesset discussions and helped advance legislation. In addition, we delivered extensive professional training nationwide, equipping local leaders with the knowledge and tools to advance equality in their communities. Working with 13 local authorities, we helped embed gender-sensitive planning into the core of municipal governance, fostering systemic change at the local level.

Looking ahead, recovery and rebuilding democracy must be grounded in equity. The Adva Center will continue to champion evidence-based advocacy, amplify marginalized voices, and drive social justice and equality for all. I invite you to share our findings, join our efforts, and help shape a society that not only recovers from crisis but emerges stronger, more inclusive, and more just.

Thank you for standing with us.

With determination,

Producing the evidence base for equitable recovery

In 2025, Israel faced war, displacement, fiscal strain, and widening inequality.

Adva Center focused on a single question: How do public systems distribute risk and protection - and for whom?

BUDGET & ECONOMY



We published *Dark Years for Israel: Comments on the Proposed National Budget for 2025*, examining the proposed state budget under conditions of war and fiscal strain and showing how expanded security priorities come at the expense of a credible social-economic recovery agenda. We also produced a comprehensive gender analysis of the State Budget and Arrangements Law, assessing how fiscal choices shape poverty, employment, housing access, and public services.



We released *Everybody is Talking About the Cost of Living in Israel but Nobody is Doing Anything About It*, arguing that low purchasing power -not “moderate” price increases- is the core driver of Israel’s cost-of-living crisis amid limited government action. We published *Work Without Decent Pay in Israel*, tracking low-wage employment among both salaried and self-employed workers, and updated our labor-market analysis through *Gender Pay Gaps in Israel 2025*. We launched groundbreaking research on taxation through a gender lens, completed *Women in Poverty* with Na’amat on structural drivers of vulnerability among Arab women, ultra-Orthodox women, and single-parent households.

October War

Following October 7, we produced a sustained body of work on emergency governance and civilian protection -mapping gaps in shelters and protected spaces, documenting unequal access to protection, and examining risks to critical infrastructure and energy systems. We brought this analysis into formal decision-making through Knesset committee engagement and a dedicated Knesset conference, and expanded public access through an open webinar.

We monitored policy for evacuees and the rehabilitation of the Gaza Envelope and northern regions, including analysis of recovery spending and implementation frameworks. We also examined displacement and housing insecurity among evacuees, and tracked employment-related recovery measures as part of equitable reconstruction.

Across all areas, the objective was consistent: ensure that gender, poverty, and structural inequality remain visible in national decision-making.



Moving research into formal decision-making arenas

Research alone does not shift systems. In 2025, Adva translated analysis into direct engagement with legislative, ministerial, and municipal actors.



AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

Our experts provided testimony and analysis in Knesset committees addressing housing, civilian protection, state budget impacts, evacuation, gender gaps and food insecurity.

Our work contributed to:

- Advancement of the Public Housing (Purchase Rights) Law
- Legislative progress expanding public housing eligibility for survivors of violence, including support for a bill granting two years of eligibility that passed its preliminary reading
- Increased attention to women's representation in senior civil service and equal opportunity in academia and employment
- We consulted with the Israeli Employment Service on labor-law enforcement and presented findings on food insecurity to Ministry of Health regional directors.
- We documented how privatized access to shelters and reinforced safe rooms leaves low-income and peripheral communities dangerously exposed; and advanced the case for public policy to close these protection gaps in the Knesset.
- We presented a gender analysis of the 2026 budget to the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, in the Knesset.



AT THE MUNICIPAL LEVEL

We worked intensively with 13 local authorities - Jewish and Arab - delivering over 40 professional trainings and providing accompaniment to gender equality advisors. Gender analysis is being integrated into budgeting, transportation planning, and municipal services. We expanded gender-sensitive transportation planning to three additional localities, conducted gender analysis of sports departments, and trained officials in two Arab localities on gender-responsive policy and budgeting.

Adva's methodologies were reflected in **the State Comptroller's report on gender equality in local government**, and our gender equality model was adopted by **the Authority for the Advancement of the Status of Women**.



INFRASTRUCTURE

Strengthening
the ecosystem
that drives
change

Adva operates not only as a policy institute but as infrastructure for the feminist and social justice field.

Through a European Union grant designed to strengthen civil society research capacity, we issued another open call for partnerships. Two projects were selected: research with the Rackman Center on valuing unpaid caregiving in alimony calculations, and research with Economic Empowerment for Women assessing the impact of COVID-19 and the war on women-owned businesses.

Throughout 2025, we partnered with Na’amat, Itach-Maaki, Shatil, Kav LaOved, ASSAF, the Van Leer Institute’s Yodaat Center, and others to align strategy, share data, and strengthen coordinated advocacy.

We also co-authored the Jewish Funders Network’s Gender-Lens Philanthropy Guide, extending our influence into the philanthropic sector.

Public education remained central to infrastructure-building. We delivered approximately 40 public lectures, trained aspiring women politicians, supported community activists in Beit Jann, assisted women’s organizations in drafting local policy papers, and expanded digital engagement - reaching an average of approximately 25,000 users per post.



A dilapidated and overcrowded residential building in the Hatikva neighborhood.
Photo: Neta Hamami Tabib

I CHANGE

What shifted in 2025

Across research, policy engagement, and field-building, Adva's work contributed to measurable change in four dimensions:

Policy & Legislative Progress

Public housing legislation advanced. Housing protections for survivors of violence advanced (preliminary reading). Gender budgeting methodologies were adopted at national and municipal levels. Adva's data was formally referenced in legislative discussions and public institutions.

Media & Public Reach

public engagement expanded through sustained digital and media presence:

- We published 59 original Facebook posts reaching ~17,000 followers, generating ~1.5M total views (~25K–35K per post; ~9K unique users on average).
- 84 media appearances recorded across online, print, radio, TV, and podcasts, primarily in Hebrew, alongside English, Arabic, and Russian outlets.

Agenda Change

Civilian protection gaps, housing insecurity, food insecurity among asylum seekers, and gendered economic impacts became central topics in parliamentary and public debate.

Institutional Change

Gender analysis became embedded in municipal budgeting, strategic planning, and service provision across multiple authorities.

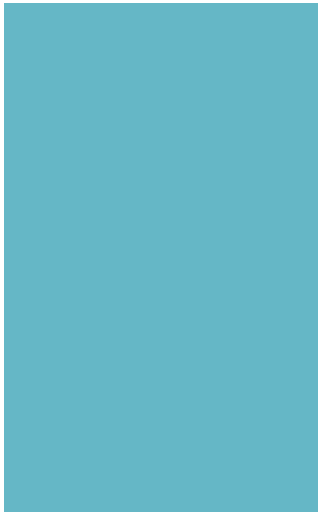
Ecosystem Change

Civil society organizations increasingly relied on shared research infrastructure. Coalition advocacy became more coordinated. Awareness of gender-lens giving has grown within the philanthropic community. A structured evaluation framework was formalized to better track influence across committee presentations, policy adoption, regulatory change, and public engagement.

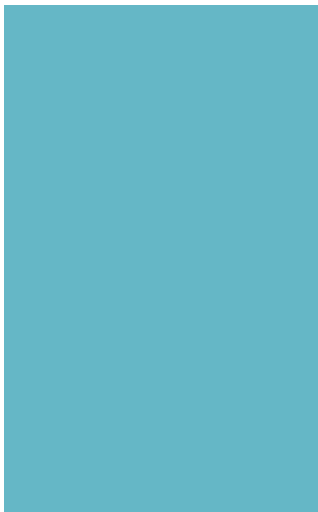


GOVERNANCE: TEAM & BOARD

Adva Center is led by an executive leadership team and supported by a multidisciplinary staff spanning research, policy engagement, municipal practice, and communications. Strategic oversight and fiduciary responsibility are provided by an independent Board of Directors, with an Audit Committee supporting governance integrity.

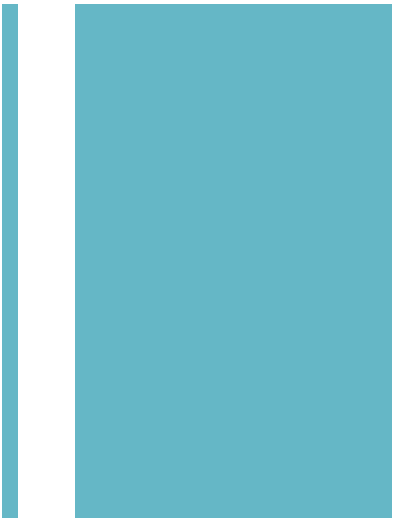


Leadership



Dr. Yael Hasson
Executive Director

Etty Konor-Attias
Academic Director



Core Team

Adva’s core team integrates policy research and analysis, public engagement and communications, municipal accompaniment and capacity-building, and organisational operations – ensuring research is translated into practical tools and influence across decision-making arenas.

Barbara Swirski -Community Relations
Dr. Shlomo Swirski -Researcher and Founding Academic Director
Mira Oppenheim -Office Manager / Media Relations

Atty. Noga Dagan Buzaglo -Researcher
Yaron Hoffmann-Dishon -Researcher
Dr. Shani Bar-On Maman -Researcher
Max Grubman -Researcher
Dr. Miri Endeweld Sabag -Researcher

Dr. Alina Rozenfeld -Researcher
Dr. Nehaya Awida -Researcher
Lital Biton -Creative and Graphic Artist
Ella Gur -Community Outreach Coordinator
Dr. Yael Proaktor -Public Advocate



Board of Directors

Chair: Prof. Yossi Dahan

Members: Prof. Ismael Abu-Saad; Dr. Hedva Eyal; Prof. Nitza Berkovitch; Ruti Gur; Dr. Maisalon Dallashi; Prof. Yossi Yonah; Prof. Oren Iftachel; Dr. Yuval Livnat; Dr. Towibah Mjdoob; Prof. Shoshana Madmoni-Gerber; Prof. Rivka Savaiya; Prof. Dani Filc; Prof. Rachel Kallus; Adv. Ola Shtiwee; Dr. Gili Tamir

Audit Committee: Hedva Isachar; Prof. Halleli Pinson



PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS

- Bader Philanthropies
- Claims Committee
- Disrupt
- European Commission
- Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung
- Foundation Goldikova
- Hadassah Foundation
- Heinrich Boell Stiftung
- Levi Lassen Foundation
- Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger
- New Israel Fund
- National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)
- Sara Gottesman
- Schusterman Family Philanthropies
- Tel Aviv-Yaffo Municipality
- Women’s Amutot Initiative of the Greater Miami Jewish Federation

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