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Tikun Movement-2013-2014

Name of program

Tikun Movement

Year of activity

2013-2014

Name of the report's writer

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Function of the report's writer

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Status of program

A central objective last year was to bring the issue of Shabbat as a Jewish and civic value to the fore of the public agenda. Mrs. Lea Wohl-Segal coordinated the Shabbat topic with great success, leading a think tank of volunteers who designed a plan of action to place Shabbat on the public agenda. Significant initiatives were led by our team and volunteers on three main fronts: A. Raising public awareness – including a publicity campaign and Shabbat sticker design competition, followed by a Shabbat conference at Beit Avi Chai, Jerusalem; B. Legal action – active involvement in the court appeal concerning the opening of convenience stores on Shabbat in Tel-Aviv; C. Educational – enriching the public discourse with Tikun concepts, and successfully influencing Jewish Renewal organizations' agendas and engaging them to take responsibility for promoting the inclusive values of Shabbat and mutual understanding through effective action involving diverse sectors of Israeli society. Young adults programming continued to generate dynamic activities and Ben Avrahami took on the leadership of the Tikun Young Adults project this year, which held regular study encounters on topics inspired by the Tikun mission statement. We now have leading circles of influence and have

developed a public presence through TV and radio media as well as in social media. Mr. Ofer Namimi Ha'Levi was appointed Executive Director to reinforce the movement, increase the scope of its activities, and expand its public impact and membership.

Main achievements during the last year of activity

Our main achievement this past year was the Tikun Movement's identification of Shabbat as a focal issue and essential concern of Israeli society and culture. Tikun played a determining role in bringing discussion of the Shabbat issue into the public arena through several circles of influence: from organizations, including Beit Hillel Rabbis, that changed their agenda, to a coalition of organizations – Shabbat Israelit – that expanded awareness of the subject throughout the public arena in Israel. Tikun succeeded in influencing public opinion leaders and elected public representatives to support Shabbat values and content in the public sphere. An additional achievement was obtaining a grant of \$50,000 to increase the scope of Tikun's activities and impact in its fields of intervention.

Tikun events held over the past year: The Shabbat think-tank (10 members) met for 6 full-day seminars. The Tikun Young Adults group (12 members) met for 10 workshops, and over 20 community events and lectures by Dr. Meir Buzaglo were attended by more than 1,500 participants. Lea Wohl-Segal, Shabbat program director, Yehuda Maimran, and Dr. Meir Buzaglo were hosted in 2 television programs and 2 radio broadcasts. The sticker campaign event web page was seen and shared by thousands.

Evaluation

Over the past programmatic year the Tikun Movement advanced in its professional development and researched several avenues of influence. Recruiting of the movement's secretariat membership was completed and a group of eight active members formed to determine the movement's goals and objectives. Two central goals with the potential of bringing about significant change and social justice in Israel were defined: Shabbat, and the rectification of municipal borders in Israel's development areas.. We are currently holding a comprehensive evaluation of these two domains and the two avenues of action chosen. Concerning municipal borders, we supported the initiative and achievement led by Mr. Michael Biton, mayor of Yeruham. We decided to bring the issue of Shabbat to the fore of public discourse, with significant success – social activists and organizations, as well as public representatives, changed their agenda and chose to promote the issue of Shabbat in court appeals, legislation, and community events so as to promote public awareness of Shabbat in the public sphere.

Others

Provisional guide lines for the advancement of the program in the next year:

Attendance at this year's first meeting of the secretariat membership was impressive; a brainstorming session was held to determine the guidelines of the Tikun movement's activities for the coming year. We set the range of objectives to shape the range of Tikun activities and

decided to advance an annual work plan to be detailed by the CEO and approved by the secretariat. The following main domains were chosen for the coming year's activities:

We will continue and expand our activities on the issue of Shabbat, both in the Shabbat Israelit coalition of organizations and in activities promoting legislation on this issue. We consider Shabbat values to be constitutive and fundamental to Tikun; they have the potential of deepening and empowering social solidarity and enhance our capacity to provide inspiration for individuals and communities who, by infusing Shabbat with meaning, enrich their culture with positive values.

Furthermore, we are deeply aware of the rising extremism in Israeli society and the increasing hostility and hate between sectors, in particular in what concerns Jewish - Arab relations within Israel. The Tikun Movement has set as its objective to increase the scope of action in this area and to promote public discussion and dialogue towards coexistence and tolerance – as inspired by the positive experiences of Jewish communities in Muslim countries, that we consider to be key to the development of relations of mutual trust and respect – and encouraging the leveraging of civic involvement in the different sectors of Israeli society.

The third issue in which we seek to invest substantial effort this year is social justice and issues on the public agenda, as well as identifying and promoting support for disenfranchised populations. We consider that these issues are interconnected rather than dichotomous and provide numerous opportunities for holistic, proactive and positive action.

The Tikun Movement seeks to maintain its relevance by attending to public sentiment in Israel and to events on which we feel obliged to voice our position. In this sense, we will retain the flexibility required to act quickly in response to situations that may arise. We will, in addition, reinforce our institutions, expand our ranks throughout Israel, and reinforce our unique presence in the public discourse and among policymakers in Israel.

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