**HIGHLIGHTS**

**THE ABRAHAM INITIATIVES 2019**

Following the lowest turnout ever by Arab voters in the April election, we advocated to political parties to change their rhetoric and address the needs of the Arab minority in the lead up to the September election, in order to provide a sense of hope in the democratic process. With our partners at Sikkuy and aChord Center, we conducted two surveys examining the motivations of Arab voters which showed the need for inclusive messaging. Following our advocacy, center-left Jewish parties began to appeal directly to Arab voters with billboards in Arabic, interviews on Arab television, and campaign events in Arab communities. As a result, **voter turnout in the Arab sector increased from 49% to 60%**.

**CONVINCED POLITICAL LEADERS TO ADDRESS ARAB NEEDS**

With the injection of a $1 million USAID grant and the support of Israel’s Ministry of Education, our Shared Learning initiative has doubled from 20 to 40 schools reaching 1,200 students in the 2019-20 school year. The project brings together Jewish and Arab students from neighboring schools to study a core curriculum subject, co-taught by their teachers and alternating between the two schools. **This project aims to break down the separation created by Israel’s segregated school systems while improving academic outcomes.** The Ministry of Education has approved our program and is actively partnering on implementation.

**PM ADOPTS OUR RECOMMENDATION TO SET UP TASK FORCE ON CRIME**

Safe Communities publishes 2nd annual Personal Security Index launched at a full day conference with MKs, Police and mayors of Arab towns discussing the findings. This first-of-its-kind, systematic collection of data contributed to a deepening perspective among leaders in media, government and the police on the severity of under-policing in Arab communities. We also managed to convince the Arab community and the gov’t that tackling crime is not just about policing, but requires that housing, poverty and other issues be addressed as well. The **PM adopted our recommendation for an inter-ministerial task force to tackle root causes of crime.** This is an important step towards systematically addressing the violence plaguing Arab daily life.

**SAFE COMMUNITIES PUBLISHES 2nd ANNUAL PERSONAL SECURITY INDEX**

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATIONadopts spoken Hebrew Initiative**

After five years on the ground proving that Hebrew can be effectively taught to Arab students in Israel, the Ministry of Education has recognized our initiative, and given their commitment to implementing the program in schools across Israel. By training and placing Jewish teachers to teach spoken Hebrew, Arab students will both receive a higher level of language instruction from native speakers, and build relationships with members of the Jewish community, in many instances for the first time.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ADOPTS SPOKEN HEBREW INITIATIVE**

The 2018 municipal elections, resulted for the 1st time, in creating Jewish-Arab council coalitions in all seven mixed cities. As a result, The Abraham Initiatives has created a new Shared Cities Initiative aiming to ensure the success of these nascent political partnerships in order to provide a model to communities quickly becoming mixed and to national political parties. We have initiated partnerships with all of the mixed cities, and are carrying out extensive mapping of the relationship between Jewish and Arab residents of the mixed cities, as well as of their perceptions of the education system and the municipality. We are sharing these findings at our 1st Shared Cities Conference hosted in Akko.

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION ADOPTS SPOKEN HEBREW INITIATIVE**

**MAPPING MIXED CITIES**

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**MAPPING MIXED CITIES**
A large part of the problems in Israeli society: polarization, violence, and hatred, are based on ignorance. Only through encounters like these where you listen, where you go into peoples’ homes, where you embrace...this is the first step which is integral to building co-existence.

-Prof. Galia Saban; President of Ruppin Academic Center, while on an Academia as Shared Space tour to Kafr Qara.

Hebrew is the official language of the country. Language brings people together. You feel more comfortable when you understand the other. If you don’t understand you will feel afraid. To know the language is to understand the other culture; the humanity of the other. For our students learning Hebrew will help in work, in university and college, at the hospital and the bank. In everything.

-Ivrit B’Salam Principal Mary Agbariya (pictured with Jewish teacher Ital Levi); Umm al Fahum

"Learning about violence, how my son can get from school to home without surprises. How can he protect himself? How can I help him? After the first training, I realized there would be very important information. I will share these things with my neighbors and my friends and my son."

-Sabrin, 32, is a single mother in Jisr as Zarqa. She is a participant in the Safe Communities’ Personal Security Course for women.