

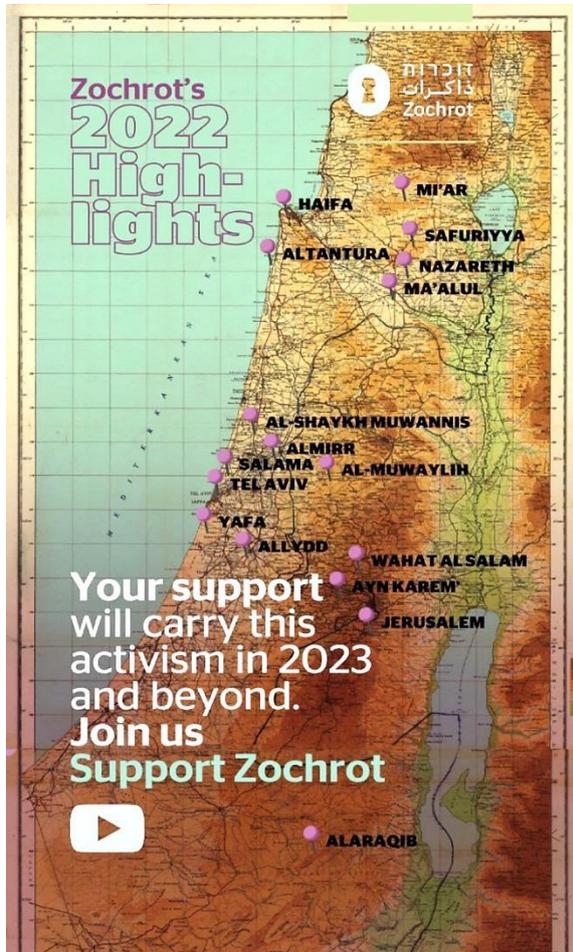
ZOCHROT

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



ZOCHROT OFFERS ISRAELIS THE CHANCE TO BE PART OF A GROWING COMMUNITY. TO EMBRACE HISTORICAL ACCURACY, HUMAN COMPASSION AND MORAL RECTITUDE. TO BUILD A TRULY JUST SOCIETY.



2022 marked the 20th anniversary of Zochrot. It's been twenty years of in-depth educational, cultural and political work that has cracked the taboo of denial in Israeli society regarding the Nakba and is starting to break through the even more overwhelming taboo in our society that hesitates at the mere mention of Palestinian right to return and shuts down discussion of a real, just future for all people between the river and the sea.

For the past two decades, Zochrot has been and continues to be a political **and ideological home** for thousands of our friends and supporters in a reality where solidarity is crucial.

Throughout this year, we have witnessed the emergence of a daring community, unafraid to tell the truth, take responsibility and decolonize the space we live in. Thanks to our members and collaborations with sister organizations, we saw an increase in action and reached more people to change hearts and minds. We are immensely proud of this political community pushing for radical change that is directly supported by its own members,

In the past year, we carried out more than **70** different political actions and public events, reaching out to thousands of people through our *Tours to destroyed Palestinian localities*,

Workshops and training for activists and organizers, Courses and lectures, Public campaigns, New curriculum and materials for educators, Film screenings, publications, testimonies and so much more - all actions aimed to expose the ongoing Nakba and emphasize our responsibility to bring the imperative of return into the heart of Israeli public discourse.

Zochrot makes and will continue to make information about the Palestinian Nakba and the right of return accessible for the Jewish public in Israel and produces new knowledge, study materials and pedagogical tools. We continue to provide creative and accessible tools such as the new [iReturn](#) app to expose the truth of the ongoing Nakba and push forward the conversation around return to a wider audience.

Zochrot is grateful for the solidarity, partnership, and support of our funders: Misereor, HEKS-EPER, IHL Trust, Kurve Wustruw, EMHRF and the Rockefeller Brothers foundation. We thank the supporters of various projects: St. Het Solidariteits fonds, AFSC, MCC, Kaleidoscope fund, Haella Foundation, Sivmo, Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Medico International, CCFD, as well as private individuals from all over the world.

Zochrot, January 2023

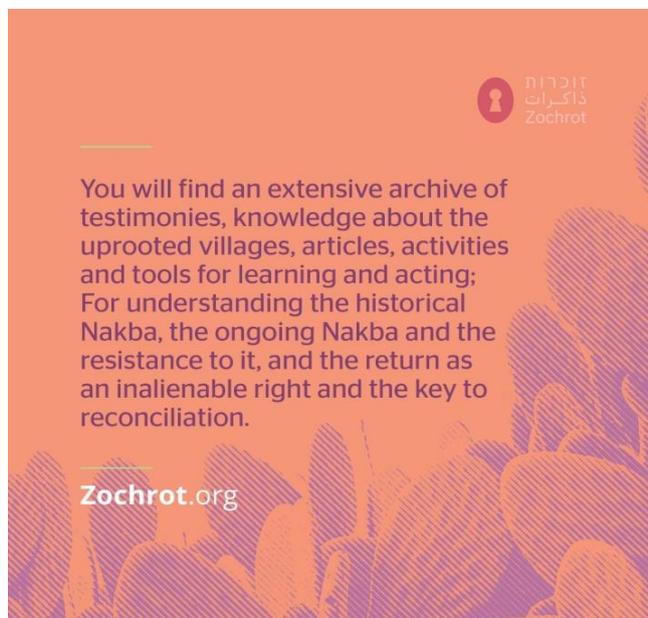
DEVELOPING GROUNDBREAKING TOOLS & BUILDING A COMMUNITY THAT TAKES RESPONSIBILITY

LAUNCHING OUR NEW WEBSITE

Revealing the silenced and denied historical truth of the *Nakba* has been a major objective of *Zochrot* since its founding. Our activist stance, going beyond the boundaries of the Israeli consensus, has successfully managed to crack the taboo on the *Nakba* in Israeli society. We have opened the eyes of thousands of Israelis and others belonging to multiple and significant groups in Israel and abroad, making them rethink both their past and their present.

On Land Day, 30/3/2021 we launched a newly designed website making our resources and information more accessible to the general public. Our new visual identity draws the attention of a wider audience and facilitates easier navigation on our website.

Reintroducing *Zochrot* included a [retelling of our foundational story](#). Newly released publications as well as our extensive database of uprooted localities are highlighted in a freshly designed “Calendar of Displacement” that details the anniversaries of the expulsions from Palestine’s cities, towns, and villages. Our



database includes testimonies by both *Nakba* survivors and Israeli soldiers who fought in 1948 and were courageous enough to acknowledge their war crimes. However, beyond revealing atrocities committed in a murky past, we want our website to motivate people to look at possibilities for future restitution. Our new visual web identity reflects this vision, suggesting the possibility that understanding the history of the *Nakba* in its depth could inform the building of a more just future. We encourage people to take responsibility for the past and to work toward creating a future based upon truth and integrity. The “Get Involved” section on the website offers ways to become engaged and to take part in our knowledge production.

LAUNCHING OUR NEW iRETURN APP

iReturn is an upgraded version of the famous trilingual iNakba app. First launched in 2014, iNakba was designed to enhance understanding of the Palestinian Nakba; its manifestations in the landscape and the possibility for redress. The advanced technology of the new iReturn app allows the furtherance of engagement with the concealed history of displacement and expropriation by increasing user engagement. It gives users and beneficiaries a tool to learn the history of the Nakba, and also envision a just, viable, and peaceful solution to the ongoing crisis facing Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Launching iReturn is an essential facet of realizing Zochrot's mission of helping communities imagine Palestinian return. We are not only remembering the ongoing injustices of the Nakba, but have a vision of hope for the future which includes the return of all refugees and a just society that is inclusive of all who live here.

By upgrading iNakba app and turning it into iReturn, we hope to both provide access to new knowledge and allow users to share their own experience and become active in the process of knowledge creation and in forward thinking.

iReturn enables users - many of whom are refugees and IDPs - to contribute information and input and interact with each other through the app. Direct conversations between present-day users help expose the Nakba as an ongoing process of oppression as well as the ongoing resistance, creativity and steadfastness of the Palestinian communities, and at the same time it allows sharing individuals' hopes and visions, hence creating a grassroots archive of the future.

The new app allows all participants to carry in their hands and pockets Zochrot's language of hope and vision of return. Building on the most extensive trilingual archive on the Nakba, iReturn is a true opportunity for a sustainable dialogue between the hidden past and an imagined future to overcome a painful and unjust present.

iReturn app is open for everyone and is totally free of charge and is available in two versions, one for iOS and the other for Android, which can be downloaded from the [Apple Store](#) and [Google Play](#).



5 THINGS THE IRETURN APP OFFERS YOU

- 1 You are able to navigate to hidden Palestinian localities.
- 2 You can learn more about the Nakba and expand your knowledge.
- 3 You can critically question what you have been taught and envision the future.
- 4 You can take responsibility to expose the injustices of the Nakba and the colonial regime.
- 5 You can be interactive.

Here you can find a link to our [social media tool kit](#) for the app's launch campaign.

We launched the app also with a public tour to Ma'lul. On this tour, more than 35 people joined us as we walked through the ruins of this depopulated village and learned about its history, which was cut short by the State of Israel in July 1948 when it occupied the village and uprooted its inhabitants. We met with members of the first, second and third generation of internally displaced persons from the village, who, together with their parents and grandparents, have been prevented from returning to Ma'lul since they were displaced 74 years ago. Nevertheless, they maintain contact with the village and insist on their right to return. We gathered in one of Ma'lul's surviving churches and discuss the struggle for changing awareness, remembering the past, and activism for future return.



We arrived at the site of the village, which has been erased from maps and space, using iReturn. The app retains the location of the village as appearing in pre-Nakba maps of Palestine, provides information about it, and guides visitors to it. It also enables every user to add information, texts and images, and share experiences of uprooting, return and participation in the process of political change.

ORGANIZING COMMUNITY EVENTS AND ACTION

CALL FOR REALIZATION OF RETURN

"10 DAYS OF RETURN"

Parallel to the launch of our new website, we set in motion our "[10 Days of Return](#)" series wherein we highlighted the call for realization of the Palestinian right of Return as key to the decolonization and dezionization of Palestinian space. It is, we believe, the way forward to a just and sustainable resolution and a lasting peace.



"Ten Days of Return" events - coinciding with Zochrot's 20th anniversary - occurred in the ten days between Israeli "Independence" Day and *Nakba* Day in May 2022. We offered a series of public events and actions that connected those two events, showing that they are in fact one. We made it a time to call for acknowledgement of the *Nakba* and the need to redress its crimes, culminating in support for the Palestinian Right of Return.

Each year, the volatile period around the two dates is unsettling for both Palestinians and Israelis who see the harms of nationalism. Seeking to overcome this impasse, we invited people to expand their imaginations by joining our tours of the physical landscape while encouraging them to think differently about the spatial reality they encounter, to listen to speakers, participate in conversations and take part in actions that bring back hope for justice, peace and return .

Close to 600 people participated in the 14 activities of "Ten Days of Return". We collaborated with 10 organizations and involved 30 speakers and organizers. The high level of engagement was apparent with people staying well beyond the close of an activity to discuss opposing views, think together and create community. Some participants came to



multiple events, bringing friends and family. Others, joining for the first time, asked for more activities and suggested ideas and solidarity actions for the future.



The “Ten Days of Return” started on the eve of Israeli Independence Day with a gathering to re-think and discuss the way(s) forward from Zionism and a call to find a way out of the presumptuous nature of its narrative. The following day we joined the Palestinian Rally for Return at the destroyed village of Mi’ar and toured the remains of the village before the rally. Our tours throughout the week also featured a visit to Salama, once the largest village in the Jaffa district and now a marginalized Jewish neighborhood in Tel Aviv; Manshyeh, a once thriving, heavily populated neighborhood of Jaffa, now a grassy public park where we heard about the colonial history of Tel Aviv; al-Khalasa in the Naqab Desert; and the iconic, eye-catching ethnically-cleansed village of Ayn Karem on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Another tour was a virtual one that focused on the Jewish National Fund sites.

In Jerusalem, we met activists who attended our talk: *Nakba 101*; In Haifa activists organized a screening of the Palestinian film “a Handful of Earth” and we heard from the filmmaker and a scholar; We screened testimonies of survivors of the *Nakba* in Nazareth, where dozens joined us to retell their own family stories.

We hosted a [book talk](#) with the well-known Palestinian author Mona Halaby about family, Jerusalem and Return. We conducted a fascinating [webinar about decolonization](#) and met our online community at a Q&A about our work.

This campaign ended on Nakba day, May 15 when we joined with hundreds of Palestinians and Israelis in a ceremony organized by Palestinian students at Tel Aviv University, which itself is built on the destroyed village of Sheikh Mawannes. This ceremony was interrupted by the right wing group “*Im Tirzu*” and the police arrested three Palestinian students before the event began. Despite the open hostility on campus from right-wing extremists, it was encouraging to see a large number of Jewish Israelis attending the ceremony, listening open-mindedly to personal accounts of the *Nakba* by Palestinians, following Palestinian lead and expressing commitment to changing our current oppressive reality. (Im Tirzu people also visited our gathering on Independence day eve and tried to provoke our members, who instead engaged them in a fact-based conversation).

Our partners in this series were: Culture of Solidarity, the Association for the Protection of the Rights of the Internally Displaced, Imbala, This is not an Ulpan, Green Olive Tours, Baladna Nazareth, The School for Peace, The Palestinian Student Organizations of Tel Aviv University - Sheikh Muwannis, as well as activist groups in Tel Aviv and Haifa and graduates of *Zochrot*’s “Decolonizing” workshops.

SOLIDARITY LIBRARY’S FIRST BOOK FAIR

On October we cooperated with House of Solidarity, an activist space in Tel Aviv in *planning and participating in Solidarity Library’s first Bookfair* – the bookfair took place on October 21-22. The main goals were to create a space where different radical communities could get to know each other, ask questions, learn and act together and to support publishing houses that publish radical leftist political

content. The fair included lectures, panels, workshops and activities for children alongside the stands of numerous publishing houses, independent bookstores, organizations, movements and collectives. Throughout the weekend, hundreds of people came to the fair.

At Zochrot's booth visitors were invited to take a Q&A booklet, to get to know the app iReturn, buy various publications (memory booklets, Nakba maps, study kits and more). We also offered books and political games to be read and used in house during the event.

Dozens of people approached Zochrot's booth. 100 Q&A booklets were distributed, and several publications were sold. Many downloaded the application. The operators of the booth – Zochrot team and volunteers - talked to interested parties and provided information about Zochrot, the Nakba and the right of return, the iReturn app and our events and activities.

SUPPORTING & ORGANISING GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM

Zochrot is proud that in the past year, much of our work was inspired, fueled and organized by members of our community joining us in planning and leading tours, researching, writing and publishing new materials, organizing public events and actively growing our community. Through our various workshops, training and courses, we aim to nurture a vibrant community of Israeli activists and organizers who support Palestinian return, stand in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for liberation and teach more of our friends and families that we can reject notions of Jewish supremacy, embrace justice and strive towards reconciliation. We are very proud of our growing community and their initiatives, and especially of the strong show of female leadership. Here is some of what our community did this year:

1. **Film screening and talk** - On May 10, Zochrot's "Ten Days of Return:" the Decolonizing Haifa group organized the event "The Nakba in the Hayfa Area - Oral History and Thoughts about Return." The film "A Handful of Earth" (Dirbas, 2008) about Palestinians who were uprooted from the village al-Tira (Haifa district) was screened followed by two short presentations by the filmmaker Sahera Dirbas and researcher Rawda Ghanaim and a panel discussion featuring both Dirbas, and Ghanaim and members of the Decolonizing Haifa workshop.
2. **Remembering Salama** - Zochrot's first "learning and acting" workshop, Decolonizing TLV took place in Tel Aviv-Jaffa during October - December 2020 and produced a booklet: [Remembering Salama](#) about the depopulated town in the Jaffa district that includes historical information about Salame, its former inhabitants, the Zionist conquest, interviews with refugees, as well as personal accounts by the workshop participants about their own journey to acknowledgment and accountability. The enclosed map and a suggested tour brings the memory of Salama, the hopes of its refugees and the existing remnants of the social and economic life of the Jaffa district before the *Nakba* to the Israeli public space. A guided on-site public tour by workshop members was part of Zochrot's "10 Days of Return" campaign. The booklet, in Hebrew and Arabic, has been printed in hard copy format, uploaded to Zochrot's website and published as an [online series](#) on Haokets - critical platform on socioeconomic, political, media, cultural and other issues in Israel and beyond. One chapter was published in Haaretz, both in [Hebrew](#) and [English](#), mentioning the work of Decolonizing TLV group and Zochrot.
3. **Yafa Streets** – A community project in Jaffa initiated by two women who live in the city, one Palestinian & one Israeli. Rachel Hagigi, who started the project with Nawal Arafat, approached Zochrot for help in research after she was inspired by our tours and sign posting, and following training at the School for Peace in Nave Shalom/Wahat al Salam. The idea was to make present in Jaffa the Arabic names that streets carried before the Nakba in 1948. Pre 1948, Jaffa was a flourishing cosmopolitan city; It was the cultural, political, economic and educational centre of

Palestine. The state of Israel destroyed large parts of Jaffa after the city was emptied of 90% of its Palestinian residents in 1948. It took particular care of destroying its cultural heritage and changing all the street names was part of the destruction. Today, there are only 15 small streets in Tel Aviv – Jaffa that carry Arab names, mostly small streets, and even that was hard won by the Palestinian community that remained in. Requests over the years from the municipal government of Tel Aviv – Jaffa to include the original names in street signs were always refused. Rachel and Nawal did a research, with the help of Zochrot and local historians to establish over 60 street names, most of them were forgotten. They then designed signs that can be hanged from windows, roofs and balconies, and engaged with different communities in Jaffa. Before Nakba Day, more than 100 signs were printed and hanged by residents. The project was well received in the community, gathered interest from media outlets and is ongoing with more signs being posted and plans to make interactive street map with the original names.

[Haaretz newspaper featured the project](#) as did [Kan, Israel's public radio](#)

4. **Video - Plant a tree in Israel: The truth about JNF-KKL** – Inspired by Zochrot's #ExposeJNF campaign the independent collective of Israeli video essayists, "Po Medaykim", created an [educational video](#) outlining the common myths about JNF-KKL and exposing its actual methods and impact on the other. The video dismantles widely held assumptions about the JNF, including that the organization raised funds and purchased lands legitimately and legally; that its activities benefit nature and the environment; and that right-wing parties have taken over the JNF and turned West Bank land purchases of land into a new policy. Faced with these assumptions, the video presents an overview of dozens of studies, archival materials, and quotes from senior members of the JNF and the Zionist movement, all of which reveal a different picture. Within days of its release, the video reached thousands of viewers. Jewish individuals who saw the video volunteered to translate it in order to help spread information about the JNF's crimes in the Jewish diaspora, where most JNF donors are located. So far, the video's subtitles have been translated to English, Russian and Spanish. The release of the video was reported by Haaretz (in [Hebrew](#) and [English](#)), [Sicha Mekomit](#) (Hebrew) and [+972 Magazine](#) (English). A public screening and talk with the creators was held at [House of Solidarity](#) on April 7th.
5. **Direct action on Israeli "Independence Day"** - On Israel's "Independence Day" activists hang a banner in the center of Ajami neighborhood of Jaffa reading: "Jewish residents of Jaffa remember the Nakba and support the Right of Return". The banner was hanged on a building known as "The Green House" – property of Sheikh Ali's family, which was expropriated by the Israeli State after the Nakba and used as a military base. The action was reported by [Yaffa48](#) – Jaffa's main media outlet and by [Activestills Collective](#) reaching large audiences.
6. **Augmented reality workshop** - Lia Tarachensky, an Israeli-Canadian film and technology researcher, teamed with us to offer activists a workshop in usage of Augmented Reality technologies in activism and in particular in imagining a future of decolonization. A group of 6 activists met with Lia for 10 sessions to learn how to use the technology, review examples of its uses in activism around the world and plan such use in the local space using simple tools available to every smartphone user. The workshop was concluded with a tool available for people who tour the destroyed Manshiyeh neighborhood in Jaffa. Using a barcode reader, one can, when standing at the ruins of Manshiyeh, see the landscape through their mobile phone camera, with the view of the neighborhood as it was in 1948. We will be using this tool in future tours.

7. **Research group | The Nakba and Health (in cooperation with PHRI)**

Since October 2021 (as a result of an initiative of a participant of Zochrot TLV group), Zochrot and Physicians for Human Rights – Israel is coordinating a research group on the effects of the Nakba on the health of Palestinians. The group includes Palestinians and Jewish-Israelis from a wide variety of backgrounds and occupations (PHRI team members, public and mental health scholars, psychologists, physicians, poets, playwrights, editor activists and more). Amongst the participants are some of the most prominent researchers in the relevant fields, such as Prof. Nihaya Daoud, Dr. Hatim Kanaaneh, Dr. Guy Shalev and Dr. Osama Tanous. As a first step the group attended a series of presentations by Zochrot and PHRI team members about Zionist ideology, the Palestinian Nakba, health determinants, the right to health, current structures of discrimination and oppression, health and collective trauma. After the academic part the participants had time for research and writing and then presented their paper drafts and discussed them with the group. In April the group split into scientific editing team and translation and language editing team. The editing team is currently revising the drafts presented by the group members and will reach out to other scholars to invite them to contribute a paper to the edited volume in order to have a coherent product. Some of the drafts submitted so far: “Settler Colonial Determinants of Health”, Osama Tanous; “Damage to the health and bodies of Palestinians: a deliberate policy? Amputation of the body as a test case” Ghada Majadli and Hadas Ziv; “The politics of terminology in mental health treatment of human rights violations”, Nitsan Perets; “The trauma of the Palestinian Nakba as manifested in Samih al-Qasim’s and Mahmoud Darwish’s poems”, Ward Awad; “Deformed Anatomies of Power: Torture and the Ongoing Nakba”, Shai Gortler; “Association between exposure to oppression and ethnic discrimination and current health of Internally Displaced Palestinians in Israel”, Orjowan Shehadi; “The Nakba: The Perpetuation of an Unwanted Legacy On In-And-Out-Of-Hospital Emergency Care”, Raymond Rosenbloom, Sydney McGuire and Rebecca Leff.



8. **Graduates** of our tour guides training [“Change Agents for Spatial and Historical Justice in the Israeli-Palestinian Context, Guiding Tours on Nakba” Course](#) in partnership with the School for Peace, **created and led a tour to the destroyed village** of al-Mirr and al-Muwaylih (read below). More graduates are working on more tours.

DECOLONIZING !

LEARNING AND ACTION GROUPS

DECOLONIZING TLV

Group I

Zochrot's first "learning and acting" workshop, was completed successfully in January 2021 with 13 activists from diverse backgrounds. The group continues to be active since: Since 2021 10 out of 13 participants joined Zochrot as members of the general assembly; Most became regular participants in further courses and tours of Zochrot; They attend demonstrations and political events together (for example in Jaffa, Masafer Yatta and Shaykh Jarah)

In 2022 we saw the culmination of the main project this group decided to work on, one that is within the scope of this report: The Tel Aviv Yaffa group has produced a **booklet**: [Remembering Salama](#) about the depopulated town of Salama, Jaffa district, after researching the site for a year. The booklet, in Hebrew and Arabic, was printed, uploaded to Zochrot's website and published as an [online series](#) in Haokets website - critical platform on socioeconomic, political, media, cultural and other issues in Israel and beyond. The booklet includes historical information about the town and its inhabitants, the Zionist conquest, interviews with refugees, personal accounts of the workshop's participants about acknowledgment and accountability as well as a map and a suggested tour. Remembering Salama has already been translated to English it is now being edited and will be published online by the end of 2022. The Booklet was also distributed in other events such as the "March of return", Nakba Day demonstration in Tel Aviv university, Activist Book fair in Tel Aviv and on line. Altogether, over 250 copies of the booklet have been distributed. In December, one of the graduates of the workshop again led tour to Salama, this time for participants in the new "Decolonizing TLV" workshop that started October 2022.

"One of the most impressive projects. Together, the articles complement each other, and their different styles and varied topics greatly enrich the reading experience. Well done!" Ami Asher, Member of Zochrot

"Participating in Zochrot's Decolonizing TLV workshop and the following work on the Salame project was a watershed moment for me as an activist. It made me look differently on the space where I live and reconsider the political meanings of life as Jewish-Israeli in Israel/Palestine." Dr. Guy Shalev, Participant in Decolonizing TLV and in writing the booklet, and the current director of Physicians for Human Rights

"Decolonizing TLV was an eye-opening, foundation-rocking experience that continues to inform and shape my thinking about the Nakba - not only as past but also as ongoing - and about Palestinian's right of return as a future we must all be working towards and without which, there cannot be justice. The workshop gave me knowledge and tools to work towards this, and was also meaningful in bringing together a group of people trying to put awareness into action, while asking ourselves deeply and critically about our role as allies or supporters of Palestinians' struggle for freedom." Miri Marmur, Participant in Decolonizing TLV and in writing the booklet, Head of the Public department in Gisha

The group also produced stickers with a **QR code** leading to the online booklet and posted them along the road from Jaffa to Kfar Shalem – formerly Salama, thus bringing to the Israeli public space the memory of Salama, the hopes of its refugees and the traces of the social and economic life of Jaffa district before the Nakba.

To launch the booklet group members planned and guided a **Public tour** to Salama as part of Zochrot's "Ten Days of Return" events (May 2022). The tour was attended by 57 people and was guided independently by the Decolonizing TLV group members. In January 2023, one of the group members will again lead a tour of Salama in cooperation with "Culture of Solidarity".

Group II

The call for applications for the second "learning and acting" workshop in TLV was published and circulated in August 2022 through Zochrot's newsletter, social networks, and direct contacts. Our target audience was Israeli-Jews who live in Tel Aviv-Jaffa, have at least basic knowledge about the Nakba and experience in political activism and civil resistance. We received 20 applications and after a round of interviews selected 14 of them. The group includes participants from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and political focus and experience (anti-occupation activists, Mizrahi activists, political journalists and more).

The workshop consists of two parts. The first six meetings focus on the historical, geographic, and political background of the Nakba, the refugee problem and the ongoing oppression and discrimination of the Palestinian people. The last six meetings focus on translating the knowledge acquired into grassroots activism. The workshop will end in January 2023.

DECOLONIZING HAIFA

In Haifa we have completed the workshop in January 2022 with 12 participants. The group is diverse and includes participants from a wide variety of age groups, cultural backgrounds, and political focus and experience (anti-occupation activists, feminist activists, artists, teachers and more).

On May 10th, as part of Zochrot's "Ten Days of Return", the Haifa group organized an event titled "**Film screening and talk: The Nakba in the Haifa Area - Oral History and Thoughts about Return**". The evening consisted of the screening of the film "A Handful of Earth" (Dirbas, 2008) about Palestinians uprooted from the village al-Tira (Haifa district), two short presentations by filmmaker Sahera Dirbas and researcher Rawda Ghanaim and a conversation between Dirbas, Ghanaim and two members of the group. The event was organized and moderated by members of the group and had simultaneous translation into Arabic and English. 70 people attended the evening – most of them haven't participated in past events of Zochrot.

Similar to the Tel Aviv – Yaffa group, graduates of this workshop show high level of engagement with Zochrot's agenda and activities, showing up to tours and other activities and reporting that their view of their immediate surrounding has changed significantly. Most of the groups are in ongoing communication with Palestinian activists in Haifa, showing up to protest rallies etc.

REMEMBERING THE NAKBA

NEW TESTIMONY

Over the years, *Zochrot* has collected dozens of testimonies from *Nakba* survivors. In May we published [The testimony of Amina Abdel Hamid Ataba](#) (1945 - 2022) an internally displaced woman from the village of Safuriyya in the Galilee. Ataba recalled the occupation of the village, the death of her sister and her life since 1948 as a refugee in Nazareth.

RESISTING THE ONGOING NAKBA

PUBLIC TOURS TO DESTROYED PALESTINIAN LOCALITIES

TOUR TO AL-TANTURA

On Friday February 25th we took a group of 60 people on a tour to the destroyed Palestinian village of al-Tantura in order to learn about the village's history, occupation, destruction, and ethnic cleansing. This coincided with the release of a new documentary film about the massacre that was carried out against the people of the village by Israeli forces. We put up signs to revive the erased name of Al-Tantura and to mark some of its main sites.

Visiting al-Tantura at this time is not only for the purpose of learning its history, it is an act of acknowledging the truth - recognizing it and taking responsibility for it by realizing the right of Return and rebuilding al-Tantura. Residents of Tantura and their descendants are still denied their right of Return and now live as refugees in Jordan, the West Bank, Syria, and Iraq. A report about the tour was also in the German radio " Deutschland FunKultur" here is the link to the report: ["Israelische Dokumentarfilm „Tantura“ erinnert an ein vergessenes Massaker"](#)

TOUR TO SA'WA AND AL-ARAQIB

A political tour on Land Day, March 30, to the Naqab (Negev) included a solidarity visit to two Palestinian Bedouin villages: Sa'wa and al-Araqib. Both villages still face dispossession and displacement by Israeli authorities. Twelve people joined us on the tour which detailed the village's history and the current status of the struggle from families living in the villages.

TOUR TO AL-LYDD

On the 14th of July 2022 we marked the 74th anniversary of the Massacre and the occupation of Al-Lydd/Lod in July 1948. On the tour to al-Lydd we have learned about the massacre, the Nakba and the ongoing Nakba, about accountability and redress. We have explored the city and learned about its glorious past passing through several sites and focusing on the brutal occupation of the city in 1948, hearing about the looting of houses and property, the massacre and the expulsion, about how the expelled were prevented from returning and how the few who survived that ethnic cleansing were confined in a "Ghetto". We also heard about processes of Judaization, including the resettlement of Jewish immigrants in Palestinian houses on the one hand and the destruction of the city's Arab-Palestinian identity on the other. We exposed to the participants the extent of lingering trauma in the Palestinian consciousness in the context of the Nakba in general and in particular in al-Lydd, with the help of speakers from the Palestinian community of Lydd. 58 people took part in the tour.

TOUR TO AL-MIRR & AL MUNWAYLIH

We visited the villages Al-Mirr & Al Muwaylih east of Jaffa near Al-Auja (hayarkon) river. al-Mirr was completely destroyed and erased from the maps and a national park was built where it once stood. In al-Muwaylih we saw few houses that remained among fields that belonged to the village and are now cultivated by Israelis .

The tour leaders were graduates of our "Tour Guides Course" in partnership with the School for Peace, Rose Amer and Maya Yavin. Rose's mother was born in al-Mirr and Rose related her memories and oral histories of the region to us. Maya shared how she was taught the Zionist narrative when trained as an Israeli tour guide, how there was no mention of what lies beneath most national parks, and how she's unlearning Zionism and opening her eyes to the realities of the Nakba .

Most of the refugees from both villages live in refugee camps in the area of Nablus to this day. Some of them, Rose told us, climb a mountain so they could see the lands of their village, know it's theirs and that one day, they will return.

It was an eye opening tour, both sad and hopeful. We draw much strength from seeing people who trained with us become guides and teachers, and carry this vision on. About 45 people took part in the tour.

EDUCATIONAL LECTURE & TOURS TO GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Zochrot gave dozens lectures, workshops and tours about the ongoing Nakba and the right of the Palestinian to return to different organizations, universities and activists groups. The institutions and organizations include: Tel Aviv University, "Eyewitness Palestine", Parents Circle, International groups and delegation, Breaking the silence (Dror project) and more.

PUBLIC EVENTS

Beside the events and activities mentioned above we held several gatherings including a screening of the documentary "Tantura" and Q&A with its director Alon Schwartz to an audience of more than 80 people. We also hosted writer Fida Jiryis for a talk about her book "Stranger in my own land: Palestine, Israel and one family's story of home". Our collaboration with House of Solidarity - an activist space in Tel Aviv-Yafa, resulted this year in a series of public talks and will continue in 2023.

We had also the privilege to take part in the symposium "Gendering Transitional Justice - between Theory and Practice" organized by The Minerva Center for Human Rights and The Sophie Davis Forum on Gender and Conflicts at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem at The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute, Jerusalem. Dr. Yaara Bengel Alaluf presented Zochrot's work within the framework of Pre-Transitional Justice and elaborated on the deep and multi-layered links between The Palestinian Nakba and Gender and between de-colonization and Women and LGBTQI rights.

NAKBA TOUR GUIDES COURSE

The Nakba Tour Guide Course, entitled "Change Agents for Spatial and Historical Change in the Israeli-Palestinian Context" was comprised of eleven sessions between October 2021 and June 22. There were fifteen Jewish-Israeli and Palestinian participants whose backgrounds included education, culture, tour guiding and socio-political activism.

In collaboration with the Neve Shalom School for Peace, the course included lectures on history, Zionism, the significance of the Nakba, post-Nakba design of space as a consciousness-shaping practice, and use of the tour as a political tool. It also featured guided tours to destroyed Palestinian locales: Manshiyye in Jaffa, Beit Sussin, Sheikh Muwannis, Imwas, and Lifta to expand trainees' knowledge of the Nakba in actual physical spaces and to provide them with hands-on demonstrations of how to structure and guide a tour.

Palestinians and Jewish-Israelis in the group underwent mental exercises featuring coping with sociopolitical issues, reflections on individual and collective attitudes toward the Nakba, challenges to pre-conceived ideas of spatial implications of identity, language, gender, power relationships, justice and political solutions. After the course ended, graduates led and guided public tours with Zochrot and will continue to do so in 2023.

Upon concluding the course, Yehudit Shefi, an Israeli participant, wrote :

"I have acquired a new way of looking at space – what I can see on the outside deliberately conceals something, as a systematic state approach. The feeling struck me, I felt "duped", and thoroughly so. My responsibility as an individual is to examine what is hidden in the visible, and share it with my audiences".

"I had to relinquish the myth on which my generation was raised (and I would not be greatly mistaken to assume that this is true of the present generation as well). That myth turned into a story that needed to be examined, criticized, and grappled with. By "grapple" I do not mean just the philosophical-intellectual-emotional aspect, but examining possibilities for action in the reality around us".



SHURUCH - CRACKS IN LITERATURE

[Shuruch - Cracks in Literature](#) is the second online book in Zochrot's "Shuruch (Cracks)" series, which provides materials to supplement the official Israeli high school curriculum on the events of 1948, allowing teachers to address the *Nakba* and the problematic issue of Palestinian refugees and bring long-silenced themes into the classroom. Among the questions asked: What is the *Nakba*? What were Palestinian life and culture like before and after 1948? What is the relation between the *Nakba* and Israel's contemporary society and culture? Does living in this land necessarily involve the dispossession and oppression of the Other?

In the spirit of Freire's critical pedagogy, the series promotes a liberating education, one that does not consider students as mere tools in the service of Zionist ideology, which transfers only the knowledge necessary to maintain the status quo. Rather, the series promotes education that respects students as independent, aware, critical-thinkers who have the power to understand the complex situation in which they live and shape it.

Shuruch - Cracks in Literature, written by poet and educator Ayana Erdal contains lesson plans for the study of 22 literary works that examine the life experiences and political views Palestinians and Jews. Although written primarily for teachers of literature, it is an invitation for everyone, both in and out of school – to explore the *Nakba* from both Palestinian and Jewish cultural perspectives and to imagine alternative forms of coexistence, grounded in justice and equality.

The book was launched in April at an event in Tel Aviv, with several educators and scholars as speakers.

RETURN RIGHT AND OPPORTUNITY

ONLINE COURSE ON THE PALESTINIAN RIGHT OF RETURN

The right of return is one of the human rights enshrined in international law, which stipulates a right for every person to return to their country of origin or their country of citizenship, and a specific right for those who have been uprooted to return. This is a real and burning issue for tens of millions around

the world, including millions of Palestinians. But in Jewish society in Israel, the Palestinian right of return is not discussed seriously, the use of the term often includes disinformation, raises fears and imagining alternative realities seems impossible. The course *Right and Opportunity* was the first course offering the Hebrew-speaking public an educational framework to learn about the Right of Return in a series of six lectures by researchers, educators and activists experts in the subjects of the Palestinian Nakba and refugees, transitional justice and possibilities for the realization of return.

Announcement of the opening of the course was published in September with the design of the Palestinian photographer Ahlam Bassoul. 23 participants paid the fee and joined the sessions, practically all participants were Jewish-Israeli. The course was held online.

The participants learned the background to the Nakba and the Israeli policy of preventing return, the legal context of displacement and return and cases of return of refugees in other places in the world (lectures by Dr. Yaara Bengier Alaluf, Umar al-Ghubari, Dr. Munir Nuseibah). After the introductory part, we turned to explore some of the ways in which Palestinian society deals today with the right of return, in geographical, sociological and demographic research as well as in educational, architectural and artistic work (lectures by Dr. Tom Pessah, Hanan Wakeem, Dr. Debby Farber). We concluded the course with an open conversation about the importance and challenges of promoting Jewish support for Palestinian return with journalist and translator Orly Noy, researcher and lecturer Dr. Avi-ram Tzoreff and Zochrot's director Rachel Beitarie.

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY VIA SOCIAL MEDIA AND CAMPAIGNS

This year, in line with the increase in our community engagement and responsibility in taking initiatives we also see an increase in social media engagement as more and more participants of our courses and events' attendees are sharing content from our resources, events, courses or tours and tagging us. This has helped us expand our reach and community on the ground as we see more young activists joining our activities of planning and organizing activities with us

Since we have been more focused on Instagram this year we've noticed an increase in our engagement there due to Instagram becoming more popular and more engaging. We had 9357 profile visits on our Instagram with an increase (18%) in the past quarter but most importantly we've had around 300 website taps through our Instagram in the past 6 months alone.



We noticed that people are drawn to photos from tours especially with a signage activity
People have also engaged quite well with our [app launch videos](#), especially the practical [reel](#) on how to use the app.

On twitter we've had over **30K profile visits** in the past 6 months with over **290 new followers** and **488 mentions**. We also had a high number of engagement with our content as we've seen over **1.1k retweets, 260 link clicks, 2.3k likes** and **120 replies** which brings our engagement rate to over 4% with a range of up to **14.5% rate in times** when we were able to tweet more.

Our social media has been doing great mainly due to the content we provide and the engaging activities. Our audience is in line with our mission with a majority of Israelis on our platforms except for twitter where we mostly target the international audience.

Social media was a buzz with regard to the "10 Days of Return" campaign and the videos and publications that we published in conjunction with it. We noticed an uptick in traffic to our new website whose new registration feature brought more people into our circle and allowed easy follow-up with visitors.

While our notable presence on social media is mostly due to our continuous engagement with current political events, our trenchant analyses and comprehensive information, the increase in the number of activities we organize like the tour to the village of al-Tantura following the release of a recent Israeli movie about the massacre that occurred there in 1948 has also had its effect. Our database about similarly depopulated localities has had more eyes on it than ever before. We were mentioned about 50 times in articles published over the past year on the media among them the two following articles in Lemonde which are interviewing Rachel, Zochrot's director ([En Israël, des appels à censurer un film sur les crimes de la Nakba](#) ; [En Israël, l'obsession du drapeau palestinien](#)) and an article in 972 interviewing both Rachel and Umar from Zochrot ([The Israeli left has broken the Nakba taboo. Will the right of return be next?](#)).

We also continued our traditional educational activities about the ongoing *Nakba*, making clear the connection between current events and their 1948 roots. We always emphasize that these events are integrally related to the ceaseless Israeli effort to depopulate Palestine of its indigenous people and we highlight how Return is the only just solution. Our previous *#ExposeJNF* campaign that publicized material on the non-stop crimes of the JNF in Jerusalem and *al-Naqab*, received high engagement since the beginning of the year due to the continuous complicity in the ethnic cleansing of al-Naqab and Jerusalem and its activities of bulldozing al-Naqab and sponsoring the expulsion of families in Silwan which indicates we always make sure to provide context analysis to current events and connect the historical crimes with the ongoing Nakba.

Through our various workshops, training and courses, we aim to nurture a vibrant community of Israeli activists and organizers who support Palestinian return, stand in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for liberation and teach more of our Israeli friends and families. We hope to show that we can collectively reject notions of Jewish supremacy, embrace justice, and strive towards reconciliation. We are very proud of our growing community and their initiatives, and especially of the strong show of female leadership

We thank all of our volunteers, supporters, and friends for their courageous partnership and solidarity. Together we are making an impact. Committed to challenging the status quo in Israeli society with a clear call for truth, accountability, and acknowledgment of the crimes of the past and present, and taking responsibility for our future, Zochrot continues

Zochrot, 2022