

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

PARENTS CIRCLE FAMILIES FORUM

Bereaved Israelis and Palestinians for Peace



Dear Friends,

As we reflect on this past year, we do so with grief, resolve, and deep admiration for the Palestinian and Israeli members of the Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF). Since October 7, 2023, our work has unfolded in the most extreme landscape we have ever faced, testing both our programs and our mission. Yet as a fragile ceasefire takes hold, this report stands as a testament to something steady: the courage of bereaved Israelis and Palestinians who continue to choose dialogue over revenge and humanity over hatred, turning pain into action.

The year reshaped daily life on both sides. The war in Gaza brought devastation, displacement, and unimaginable death and suffering, while in the West Bank hundreds were killed amid severe restrictions, loss of income, arrests, settler violence, and constant fear. In Israel, ongoing war, casualties, and attacks from Yemen and Iran deepened trauma in a society already shaken by October 7, while political polarization intensified. The successful struggle to free the hostages brought hundreds of thousands into the streets—yet many ignored the catastrophe in Gaza and lost faith in political solutions.

Even during ceasefires, anger and trauma grew. Yet PCFF remained one of the few places where Israelis and Palestinians continued to meet. When in-person gatherings were impossible, members connected online, supporting each other through fear and loss.

This report reflects how, despite everything, PCFF created spaces for dialogue, publicly opposed the war and loss of life, offered psychosocial and solidarity support, adapted programs, and kept humanity in the public sphere. Again and again, our members showed that shared pain can become a bridge to dignity, understanding, and hope.

With hope,



Nadine Quomsieh

Nadine Quomsieh
Palestinian Co-Director,
PCFF



Ayelet Harel

Ayelet Harel
Israeli Co-Director,
PCFF



Shiri Ourian

Shiri Ourian
Executive Director,
American Friends of the PCFF



The Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF), founded in 1995, is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 850 bereaved families, all of whom have lost a family member to the ongoing conflict. We call to prevent further bereavement, destruction, violence, displacement, terror and war; to promote dialogue, reconciliation, and peace. As part of our commitment to a fully and equally shared effort, PCFF is jointly operated by Palestinian and Israeli staff.

American Friends of the Parents Circle - Families Forum (AF-PCFF) shares the human side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with the American public in order to foster a peace and reconciliation process. The AF-PCFF is committed to supporting the PCFF through raising public awareness, constituency building and fundraising in the U.S.

THE NEWLY BEREAVED



Since October 7, 2023, PCFF has welcomed 150 new Israeli and Palestinian members, including 48 Israelis and 28 Palestinians that joined in 2025. New members begin with uni-national meetings to share their stories and eventually meet the “other side”, reflecting PCFF’s belief that shared grief can bridge deep divides.



“

If I was destined to be a bereaved mom, I'm at least happy that it brought me to PCFF. This is the only place I can find consolation, because for me to feel consolation, I also need to acknowledge the pain of the other.

- New Israeli Member

”

“

I joined because we don't want our son's story to end only with pain.

- New Palestinian Member

”



BEREAVED MEMBERS SHARE MOMENTS OF PEACE

Israeli and Palestinian members completed the new Reconciliation Model Program (RMP), a series of 5 workshops, designed to promote empathy and compassion, and recognize the pain created on both sides following the events that took place since October 7, 2023.

Following participation in the program, over three years, 71% of participants increased their trust in the other side and 91% reported a strengthened sense of partnership with PCFF members from the "other side".

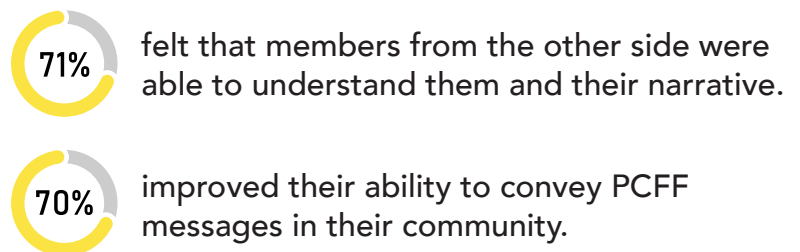
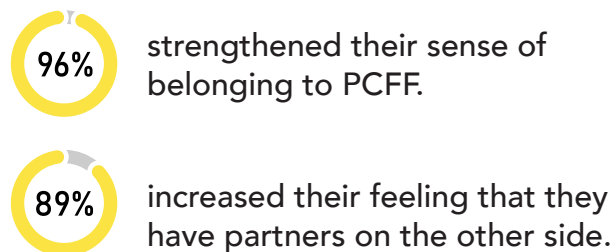


“Everything we have comes from the bottom, from people like the people who are here. The meetings we had were wonderful and we did an amazing process.
- Israeli participant”

“All changes in the world started with people who believed in something and pursued it, so we should not underestimate ourselves just because we are a small group.
- Palestinian participant”

THE JOINT MEMBERS CONFERENCE

In October, at the Dead Sea, 140 Palestinian and Israeli new and veteran members met for the first time in two years to listen to each other's pain and address major issues related to the PCFF mission.



“Our role is to bring this understanding into our society, that there is someone to talk to on the other side.
-Israeli participant”

“I have new knowledge and new tools, especially about patience and listening.
-Palestinian participant”

DIALOGUE MEETINGS

PCFF held 75 Dialogue Meetings in Israel and 52 international sessions, reaching over 5,000 participants. These meetings acknowledge the suffering and focus on preventing dehumanization. Despite another ban from the Israeli Ministry of Education, PCFF continues legal efforts to return to Israeli schools.



92%

reported an increase in their belief in the importance of dialogue with the other side and getting to know them.

81%

reported that they think more positively about the possibility of a peaceful solution to the conflict.

97%

thought it is important to hold these meetings and 96% said they will tell others about their experience.

“

I left with strong feelings of upheaval. I came with certain expectations, and they were all shattered during the lecture. If a mother who just lost her son can see the pain of the other side, then we who live ordinary everyday lives can also do more.

– Israeli participant

”



SOLIDARITY WORK

PCFF carried out many joint Israeli and Palestinian solidarity actions across Palestinian and Israeli communities, supporting those most affected by the conflict.

Activities included bereavement consolation visits to Maj'dal Shams and Massafer Yatta, and a tour of the Gaza Envelope for bereaved Israelis to hear October 7th testimonies. Palestinian and Israeli members planted 40 olive trees, joined the harvest, delivered 600 Ramadan packages, distributed 2,000 schoolbags, and helped build a playground in the village Bardala.



“

You are the only ones who came here this year. Everyone forgot us except you.
- Palestinian father from the village Auja

”

PARALLEL NARRATIVE EXPERIENCE: POST OCTOBER 7TH



PCFF conducted a pilot program for 19 Israeli and Palestinian alumni of the Parallel Narrative Experience. Having joined PNE before the war, they reunited to explore current narratives on both sides, rebuild trust and empathy, and renew their belief in Palestinian-Israeli partnership.

100%

reported believing that activities of this kind contribute to peace and hope, up from 56% beforehand.

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group strengthened confidence and partnership among bereaved Israeli and Palestinian women, highlighting their role in advocating for peace and reconciliation. In-person meetings in Beit Jala focused on personal connection and trust using art-therapy techniques. Online sessions explored examples of women's activism during war.



“

It is amazing that such a meeting is possible. All of us lost people we love, but we did not lose the ability to believe in human beings from both sides and we have to tell others that such meetings are possible.
- Israeli member

”

“

I feel that my pain has been contained and acknowledged, it is easier for me to bear the pain now. Thank you for the privilege to take part.
- New Palestinian member

”

A three-day seminar for bereaved Palestinian women focused on resilience, psychological support, and self-care, including a session on Israeli society after October 7. Bereaved Israeli women joined three uni-national sessions on nonviolent communication, engaging with opponents, and women's activism, with weekly Zoom check-ins as tensions rose.

Women members facilitated dialogues and spoke at events and demonstrations, reaching thousands.

“

For the first time since my son was killed, I could speak about him without people expecting me to glorify his death. Here, I could just be a grieving mother.
- Newly bereaved Palestinian mother

”



YOUNG AMBASSADORS FOR PEACE (YAP)



This program trains Palestinian and Israeli young adults (19–29) to become peace activists, public speakers, facilitators, and youth counselors. YAP partnered with New York University for two week-long seminars on NYU's campuses in Prague and Berlin, bringing participants together with Jewish and Muslim NYU students for dialogue, storytelling, and leadership development. Monthly meetings continued at Beit Jala, including a memorial meeting for a YAP participant that was killed this year and an Iftar dinner during Ramadan.



reported increased trust and practical peacebuilding skills, and 12 graduates later served as counselors at the 2025 PCFF youth camp.

SUMMER CAMP FOR PEACE

In August 2025, PCFF held its Summer Camp in Cyprus for 40 teens—20 Palestinians and 20 Israelis—for eight days of dialogue, cooking and photography workshops, and shared activities. The camp was held abroad again due to safety concerns. A team of 40 adults supported the program. Teens engaged openly, even in difficult conversations, and the camp drew significant media attention in Israel and internationally.



IN THE PUBLIC EYE



Photo by Gili Getz

JOINT MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY



Photo by Gili Getz

400 people attended the annual Joint Memorial Day Ceremony organized by PCFF and Combatants for Peace. The ceremony took place in Jaffa and was live-streamed, with live viewing events in Palestine, Israel and all over the world. At one of the screenings in a Reform synagogue in Israel right-wing activists launched a physical attack on participants—another painful example of the social-political climate in which PCFF is working.

CAMPAIGNS

As the war continued, PCFF launched campaigns like "the Halas" campaign—a joint Palestinian–Israeli call for a ceasefire and an end to the bloodshed. Billboard signs were hung at the center of Tel-aviv and the West Bank.



PUBLIC EVENTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS



PCFF members spoke at demonstrations in Tel-Aviv, Jerusalem, Kfar Saba and on the Gaza border, including a major peace demonstration in Tel Aviv, under the slogan "Enough with bereavement - yes to peace."

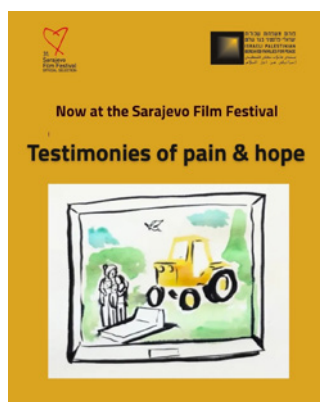
PCFF is a leading member in the "It's Time! Coalition"—a coalition of more than 60 peace NGOs—and held several events in the "It's Time" People's Peace Summit attended by 6000 people.

MULTIMEDIA

PCFF supported the staging of a theatrical adaptation of Colum McCann's *Apeirogon*—the story of bereaved members Rami Elhanan and Bassam Aramin—at the Jaffa Jewish-Arab Theater.

PCFF released eight illustrated videos called *Testimonies of Hope* - stories of some of our newest members which were screened at the Sarajevo Film Festival, the Solidarity Film Festival in Tel- Aviv and in the Human Rights Film Festival in Barcelona.

PCFF posted on all social media platforms hundreds of stories, statements, videos and pictures - raising our voice against the war.



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION



Since the war began, PCFF gained significant international recognition for its commitment to dialogue amid violence. Public figures including Yuval Noah Harari, Javier Bardem, Natalie Portman, Brené Brown, NYU President Linda Mills, and former U.S. Ambassador Tom Nides publicly endorsed PCFF's work. Bereaved Israeli and Palestinian members spoke at 13 international venues across the USA, Europe, and India.

PCFF's persistence in peace-building earned major honors, including the Yehuda Shenhav Prize, the Austrian Intercultural Achievements Prize, the Nuremberg Human Rights Prize, and the Sean MacBride Peace Prize.

“

The mutual understanding is what will build us.
-Palestinian participant

”

“

I believe we must stand firm and continue to make a difference.
-Israeli participant

”



2025 IN NUMBERS

12 **SOLIDARITY ACTIONS**
supporting communities most affected by the war

40 **PALESTINIAN & ISRAELI TEENS**
participated in the summer camp program in Cyprus

50 **YOUNG ADULTS**
participated in our YAP program

76 **NEW MEMBERS**
28 Palestinians; 48 Israelis

104 **ARTICLES, REPORTS & OP-EDS**
on local and international media publications

105 **WOMEN**
participated in our Women's Group activities

140 **BEREAVED ISRAELIS & PALESTINIANS**
participated in the annual members conference

206 **POSTS, REELS & PUBLICATIONS**
on social media platforms with over 5 million exposures

5,000 **DIALOGUE MEETING PARTICIPANTS**

7,500 **NEW FOLLOWERS**
on all social media platforms

10,000+ **MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY VIEWERS**

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Thank You!



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