מגזר בחקות משבר

섬ור אלתר

נדהה חנכה מוגה שילוח, חזרה וניתנה - על דמותה של ירחורה הארחיה, בישראל 2000.

1. ירחורה הארחיה, פעלה במסגרת עמותת "יד הלום" משנת 1999-2001, ומאז 2001 משמשתทรงת משגב ב"ישיבת הבטחת".

2. ירחורה הארחיה, פעלה במסגרת עמותת "יד הלום" משנת 1999-2001, ומאז 2001 משמשתทรงת משגב ב"ישיבת הבטחת".

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הובה לنزل כל)./9םמולה

מעריאים

"רמומי והרשים, התורות והמשהים להדרשה
ולימודם על השם עם הסדר כהא"ש

לךRachel פִּנֶּד

חוה הפנדה על עיניה ונשאה בתיה
כשהוא ציידי את תמונת האביו.

"איךuko, המהפכה והמשהים להדרשה
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"המגזר השלישי -عبור מוי-עברו מה?"

conde רבעי, של STD דבבלין

ל倓ו, חלקם של עצים, ראיוןória, לрактиיברמן שבחרה שיתוף פעולה עם אוניברסיטת לונדון ודרגת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסיטת אוניברסитет
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Walter W. Powell and
Elizabeth S. Clemens (Editors):
Private Action and
the Public Good

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Powell and The Nonprofit Sector - A Research
Clemens (Editors) Handbook הבדל
다는 התוכן בשתי המושבים

Powell and Clemens (Editors):
Private Action and the Public Good. New Haven and
The Israeli Third Sector at a Glance

The Israeli Third Sector at a Glance offers a review of the main research findings related to the scope, structure, and character of the Israeli third sector, as they emerge from studies conducted by the Center.

Published in both Hebrew and English, it comes in response to many requests for a concise presentation of the Center's findings about the Israeli third sector. We were gratified by its enthusiastic reception among many professionals, in Israel and abroad who felt the vital need for this kind of presentation.

Copies of the Israeli Third Sector at a Glance, in Hebrew and English can be obtained directly from our office.

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List of Publications

- A. Ghanem and E. Zidan (2000): Patterns of Giving and Volunteering of the Palestinian Arab Population in Israel (available also in Hebrew and Arabic)
- M. Talar, Y. Katan and B. Gidron (2000): Local and Central Government Policy toward the Third Sector in Israel (available only in Hebrew)
- B. Gidron, H. Katz, and M. Har (2000): The Israeli Third Sector 2000: The Roles of the Sector (available also in Hebrew)
- H. Bar-Mor (1999): Nonprofit Institutions - Legal Aspects (available only in Hebrew)
- B. Gidron et al. (1999): Israeli Third Sector Database - Database Model and Preliminary Findings (available also in Hebrew)
- B. Gidron and H. Katz (1993): Defining the Nonprofit Sector: Israeli, Beer-Sheva, ICTR, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins (Comparative Nonprofit Sector: Project. Johns Hopkins University (available also in Hebrew)

All publications published by the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev.

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Calendar

International Conferences

January 14-18, 2001
Wallach International Association for Volunteer Efforts (WIAVE) World Volunteer Conference, "Volunteer Capital of the Millennium," RAI Congress Centre, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

March 15-16, 2001

April 9-11, 2001
Private Action and the Public Good

Walter W. Powell and
(Ernest W. C. Clapp, Ed.)

Private Action and the Public Good is something of a sequel to the classic work edited by Powell, "The Nonprofit Sector - a Research Handbook" (1987). Like the latter, it is a compilation of articles around a single theme. It too consists of thoughtful contributions from many fine writers from a variety of disciplines. And like the latter, it represents an important and valuable contribution to the body of literature pertaining to the Third Sector. However unlike its predecessor, this book does not address third sector organizations and their attributes in general. The articles in this new volume cover organizational forms in general and their contribution to the public good. In this sense, this book is a more modest one, focusing on a more specific issue and drawing less pointed distinctions between public, private and third sector organizations.

The book's contents are divided into two main parts. The articles in the first part offer a philosophical and political examination of the notion of public good. The second part addresses the first half of the book's title - private action. The articles in this section include a number of comparisons regarding the nature of private action in differing sets of circumstances and its significance for promoting the public good. Among the comparative analyses contained in a few of these articles are patterns of organizational behavior and effectiveness among private and third sector organizations and the services provided by religious and non-religious organizations in the third sector of third sector organizations in the US and Europe. Other articles examine the effects of the organizational and political environment on the manner in which third sector organizations promote the public good, or conversely, undermine it. The contributors raise questions such as: What is the effect of public scrutiny on the activity of religious organizations? How do the characteristics of a community influence the activity of third sector organizations? How does the welfare state affect these organizations? Many of the articles treat not only third sector organizations but also with the book's preoccupation with the interdependence that exists among organizations from each of the three sectors.

Each of the twenty articles comprising Private Action and the Public Good is well written essay and may stand on its own. Several of them are based on original research and a number of them skillfully connect the inquiry of the third sector with the wider theoretical literature from sociology, economics, management, etc. The interaction among the many contributors to the volume is evident in the common themes of the articles, in the adherence of most of them to the declared theme of the book, and in the abundance of cross-references in many of the articles. In fact, this book is the product of a series of conferences and workshops that were convened over a four year period by the Center for Philanthropy at the University of Indiana.

Since the volume is basically an assortment of articles, it does not provide a fully integrated answer to the book's central question - How do third sector organizations serve the public good? For it leaves room for the reader to consolidate his or her own conclusion from the well orchestrated collection of positions and conceptions expressed.

This book is very American in style and it reflects the rich knowledge accumulated on this subject in the US. In that respect the Israeli reader should be aware to several differences in the Israeli context. First the popular conceptions of what the "public good" comprises of in the turbulent Israeli society might be somewhat different than those conceptions in the US. As well the distinctions between "public" and "private" in the Israeli context are considerably under and the boundaries between the three sectors in Israel are quite permeable. Furthermore, certain organizational types are not as different from their American counterparts. For example, the comparison between religious and non religious organizations, featured in two of the book's articles would no doubt connote something very different in Israel.

Private Action and the Public Good represents an interesting and valuable addition to the literature on the third sector. It is becoming, focused and readable. It is commonly appropriate for researchers and students interested as third sector organizations of the welfare state. It would also be highly attractive for managers and activists of third sector organizations. It is therefore worthy of a place on the bookshelf alongside Powell's earlier work.


Researchers Forum

The IUTR Forum for Researchers of third sector will convene for the third consecutive year. The goal of the Forum is to allow third sector scholars from universities throughout Israel to present their work and receive comments from their colleagues and peers.

Forum meetings will be held monthly throughout the academic year at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. To register and obtain further information, please contact the Center's office.
Research

"Patterns of Contribution, Voluntarism, and Participation and the Attitudes of the Arab-Palestinian Society Toward Third Sector Organizations"

Dr. Haim Zeidman, Prof. Shmuel Shye, Prof. Benjamin Gadain, and Dr. Basil Ghotas

"Patterns of Contribution, Voluntarism, and Participation and the Attitudes of the Arab-Palestinian Society Toward Third Sector Organizations" is a new study funded through the generosity of the Ford Foundation and sponsored jointly by the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research and the Galilee Society for Health Research and Services. The senior researchers are Dr. Elias Zeidman and Prof. Shmuel Shye. Principal investigators are Prof. Benjamin Gadain and Dr. Basil Ghotas.

This is a continuation of the study "Patterns of Contribution and Volunteering in Arab-Palestinian Society in Israel" by Dr. Elias Zeidman and Dr. Asael Ghanem published in February 2000. The significance of this research is its redefinition of the concepts "contribution" and "voluntarism" in light of perceptions in Arab society, and its description of patterns of social participation and attitudes toward third sector organizations among the research population.

In the first part of this new study, a focus group will be formed of Arabs who are involved in issues of contribution and voluntarism in an effort to define these concepts in their cultural context, and these will be compared with concepts that appear in the comparative work carried out by the International Society for Third Sector Research at Johns Hopkins University. Based on the results of the focus group discussions and the review of the literature, a questionnaire will be prepared and administered by personal interview (unlike the telephone interviews of the previous study). Based on data from the interviews, the literature review, and the focus groups, conclusions will be drawn and reported.

Patterns of Social Responsibility of the Israeli Business Sector

Prof. A. Ben-Shah, Prof. B. Gadain, and Uriel Shani

This exploratory study, the first of its kind in Israel, seeks to identify the patterns of contribution and volunteering to social goals among businesses in Israel. The study is based on a primary sample of 19 firms. The firms were selected for their diversity in size, geographic location, industry, sector, and type of ownership (private, public, government, and branch of industry). The information was collected from the executives of these organizations, in an effort to provide a cross-section of the basic range of business in Israel.

Data collection was done by personal interviews with the CEO and/or sector management. Based on these responses, common issues, ideas, and perceptions were identified; also examined were the relationships among various dimensions of social responsibility and between social responsibility and social responsibility among the businesses and organizational characteristics.

The research revealed two salient patterns among those sampled: first, the ideological motivation — acts of social responsibility as an outcome of philanthropic motivations or business strategy. The other characteristics of the activity — businesses that initiate direct social activity or businesses that respond to requests by social organizations or individuals.

One of the salient findings of this study is that most of the firms sampled undertake socially responsible philanthropy in an intuitive, unplanned manner. In light of this and the other research findings, a series of recommendations was drawn up for businesses that wish to develop an effective strategy on behalf of social goals, since planned, proactive patterns of action are more beneficial both to the donor business and the recipient social organization.

Finally, we recommend additional research to be made on a wider scale which will enable statistical analysis of the results.

The Bookshelf

"Government Allowances to Nonprofit Organizations" (draft), State Audit Department, Prime Minister's Office, June 2000

This report by Nira Berdinsky and Pamela Soker presents the irregularities found by the State Auditor's Office during its audits of nonprofit organizations in recent years, together with government action to correct them and ensure supervision of nonprofit organizations that receive state funding.

The report consolidates and analyzes the findings, their ramifications, and the recommendations. The report learns, for example, that during the period 1990–1998, allocations from the state budget increased by 75% (from NIS 2.24 billion to NIS 4.03 billion).

Intended for civil servants who deal with nonprofit organizations, the lucid and straightforward presentation of this report provides a useful tool for qualitative analysis and review of government activities in the field of nonprofit organizations. Written clearly, the report and its appendices can serve civil servants and decision makers, the bibliography provides a useful tool for students of public policy.

The report analyzes activity of the following ministries and other bodies with respect to nonprofit organizations: the Controller General in the Finance Ministry; the Attorney General's Division — State and Internal Audit; and the discussions of the Ministerial Committee for Scrutiny of the State that were given the status of government decisions: the Registrar of Amutors; improving the system of state allocations — 1990, allocations from the state budget; grants

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In early July, the International Society for Third Sector Research (ISTR) held its 4th biennial international conference in Dublin, Ireland. The conference, hosted by the “Association for Voluntary Action Research in Ireland” (AVARI), took place in the historic halls of Trinity College, located in the heart of Dublin, a stone’s throw from the city’s major museums and parks. Dublin’s residents gave us all a warm welcome, the confluence of languages and religious and national backgrounds that characterizes ISTR, was clearly heard in the streets. Over 300 delegates attended the conference representing countries from all over the globe — industrialized and developing nations, Northern and Southern. This large assembly of delegates filled the college’s conference halls, city streets, cafes and traditional Irish pubs.

The four days of the conference featured a plethora of academic, cultural and social events. The program included a full spectrum of events, with a particular emphasis on the role of the third sector as a provider of basic services, and on the mass movements that gathered the recent World Trade Organization’s convention in Seattle. In conjunction with the central theme of the conference, the Third Sector for whom and for what?, the speakers reflected on the role of the third sector in providing the movement for global democracy. According to Castells, the events in Seattle represented a turning point in the activism of a global civil society and may be understood as the opening salvo in a powerful social struggle waged by new actors critical of the prevailing consumerist culture. Organized through voluntary action, these actors battle for the quality of their lives and of the lives of those less fortunate than themselves.

Another keynote speech, delivered by Adam Seligman, addressed the applicability of the notion of civil society in third sector research. The lecture and the ensuing discussion, led by four additional panelists, focused on the gap between civil society as an abstraction and its operationalization in field research, and on the growing heterogeneity of the phenomenon of civil society between North and South, between developing and developed nations, and between Western and new democracies in Eastern Europe. Among the discussants was Prof. Nicholas Dobson of the London School of Economics, Mr. Kumi Naidoo, chairperson of CIWCD, Dr. Karen Widdowson from New Zealand and Prof. Dr. Leszynski from Poland. The keynote addresses of both Castells and Seligman may be accessed at the ISTR website: www.istr.net.

The third keynote speech was a continuation of that of Seligman’s theme, here the role of the third sector as a provider of basic services. The keynote speech was delivered by Adam Castells, who emphasized the role of civil society in providing services to those in need.

However, as the saying goes, “without flow, there is no form.” Indeed, the conference was interspersed with an impressive variety of cultural events characterized by the famous Irish hospitality, sumptuous meals and a seemingly endless supply of fine Guinness. The evening program consisted of an “Irish night,” featuring performances by a traditional dance troupes and “street theatre” style. The second day of the conference concluded with a reception held in the heart of Dublin Castle attended by the Irish Minister of Social Welfare. On the third evening, many of the delegates took part in a selection of cultural offerings arranged by the conference organizers that included a literary tour of Dublin pubs in the footsteps of the giants of Irish literature Joyce, Yeats et al.

The ISTR conference also facilitated meetings among the many delegates, some of which were informal and others prearranged around the major international research projects (Hopkins Project and the Civil Society Index Project of CIWCD). As always, the ISTR conference allowed for a lively and warm social environment within which many personal friendships and opportunities for professional collaboration were able to flourish.

And in years past, we were well represented, both in numbers and in scholarly contribution. In fact, it was difficult to find a session that did not feature the work of at least one Israeli researcher. The Israel Center for Third Sector Research was represented by five members: Benny Goldin, Esther Feuchtwanger, Moshe Shani, Hayim Katz, and Ya’acov Feinberg from Ben Gurion University, Shaul Bar-El from Tel Aviv University, and Mike Nachimson from Tel Aviv University. Others in attendance included: Henriette Dahan-Kurski, David Frohli and Yaelita Keren from Ben Gurion University, Yehuda Helbrans and Victor Friedmann (Ruppin College), Frank Lowenstein (Ben Ha’arava University), Nachum Nachimson (Haifa University), Yehiel Schmeid (Habib University), and Yehuda Shifler (Ma’aleh School).

The papers presented by Israeli researchers at the conference covered a wide array of topics, such as the funding of the third sector, boards of directors of nonprofit organizations, gender in the third sector through to de-institutionalization. The conference was formally adjourned with a membership meeting at which it was announced that the fifth biennial international ISTR conference would be convened in July of 2001 in Cape Town, South Africa. Hope to see everyone there.

Hayim Katz is the Deputy Director of ICTR and Director of the ICTR Database.
The Third Sector at a period of crisis

A time to increase contributions?

According to Anthony Giddens, ideologue of "the third way" movement, the new paradigm of British social democracy, it is the role of the third sector — a vital element in every society, according to Giddens — to be the "glue" between the initiatives of the government and business sectors and those of civil society, and to make these initiatives viable.

In light of recent events, an even greater amount of such "glue" is needed, and therefore it is incumbent upon the nonprofit sector to increase its activity. This refers not only to nonprofits that deal with Jewish-Arab relations, violence, mental health support, human rights, and the like, but to all nonprofits. These days, civil society in Israel requires more than the third sector can give it. Increased third sector activity is critical indeed, and the nonprofits must marshal their energies to meet the challenge.

Increased nonprofit activity requires more resources in the coming period. Just as a business must realize the maximum profit for its shareholders — and behaves accordingly — so too a nonprofit that does not take advantage of every opportunity to advance its goals behaves the same.

At a time like this, fortunately for nonprofits, the willingness to contribute in cases such as this, and nonprofits must take advantage of this opportunity. Indeed, government and foundations are currently willing to donate more resources and expedite requests we know of nonprofits that recently received quick positive replies. Donors from abroad are also willing to give more; during every period of tension in Israel, Jewish fund-raising increases. Even tourism to Israel is down, but striking example is the $1 million donation to the Gilo neighborhood in Jerusalem from Mr. Meir Kaplan, who gave within a few days of his arrival in Israel. This is the opportunity for nonprofits to expand and expedite their fundraising — make appeals that had planned over a longer period — and even start new initiatives, such as raising large amounts for an endowment fund.

One Achilles heel of nonprofits has been public relations. While most businesses have staff for the specific purpose of handling PR, or they hire an outside firm to do it, only a minority of nonprofits have a PR budget. Indeed, no data exist about nonprofit expenditures for PR and advertising. Therefore, nonprofits must capitalize on every media "wave" that advertises their activity and goals, since the cost of creating such a wave is prohibitively high.

Although the need to take advantage of every opportunity rests on each nonprofit individually, encouragement of the overall approach rests on the nonprofit sector as a whole.

A deeper study into the effects of public relations on nonprofit activities and fundraising, and the importance given to public relations by the nonprofit organization (public relations in Israeli nonprofits) is considered a new type of activity aimed at discovering whether more financial and other resources should be bestowed on this type of activity.

The Third Sector in Times of Crisis

Continued from page 9

opposed the policy of destroying Palestinian homes (primarily in the West Bank). This group is now involved in opposing what they perceive to be the brutal policy of Israel's military in quelling the current Palestinian uprising/riot. Here we have an organization, established for a very specific purpose that has now released its activity in order to address a new albeit related issue. An example of a newly established association temporary for the time being is the one composed of law professors and assisted by the New Israeli Fund that seeks to mobilize public opinion on behalf of the 13 Israeli Arab citizens killed during the early part of the present crisis.

To be sure, the current troubles dealt a blow to all third sector organizations in Israel. But the process of recovery among those organizations was unrelated to the current reality of civil society and co-existence. In most cases, after only a week or two. These organizations involved in issues of civil society responded by canceling and occupying new niches of activity, however these had to be the kind of nonprofits dealing in one way or another with co-existence. These groups were generally started and carried, to a large extent, with programs that have a public health and community services and projects abandoned by essential partners. These organizations, having conducted over the years an impressive record of projects under the auspices of institutions and organizations, formed a very active resistance against the current turmoil. Even the Abu-Ashraf Fund did not anticipate the current situation nor were they prepared with an adequate event management strategy to effectively cope with its effects.

At this point, it's difficult to say what, if at all, they and their staff members will return to the previous level of activity.

The prevailing mood in Israel of peace in the offing led many of us to believe that our Palestinian counterparts shared these same sentiments. Hence, there was no preparation for the current turmoil, nor were any organizational contingency plans ever considered for such circumstances. This begs the question whether it is still possible to anticipate occurrences of this magnitude and formulate an appropriate strategy accordingly. Further inquiry into crisis scenarios, which so clearly affect third sector activities, will be necessary in order to anticipate and plan for similar scenarios in the future.
We live in a time when a little routine and boredom, as in the familiar Chinese saying, would be a blessing. The outbreak of conflict between the two nations in this land, and the sudden shift from hopes for peace to the dread of war, have cast a heavy pall on the entire social fabric.

The third sector, a slippery band of activity, neither governmental nor commercial, but which serves a vital link in every society, has also felt the tremor. In Israel, the third sector has undergone dramatic changes in recent decades. The third sector is a central element in what is called "civil society." The events of October 2000 again reveal that civil society in Israel is fragmented, yet perhaps it would be more accurate to acknowledge the existence of more than one civil society.

Both secular and religious, ethnic, and religious organizations are part of the third sector in Israel. Several organizations have preoccupied the Israeli Center for Third Sector Research for some time and will continue, but vary to a large degree in their research and public activities in the coming year. Government policy toward third-sector organizations is also scrutinized closely, and the Center does important work in this regard. Plans for the future include a revitalization of the policies of third-sector organizations toward both the government and among themselves: this is a critical aspect and deserves our attention.

Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel the conference about civil society that was scheduled for late October. The topic on the agenda was characteristic of civil society based on findings from the Third Sector Database developed at the Center. We had planned to discuss the relationship between civil society and the third sector, and the impact of the Israeli state on society, as well as recommendations for government policy. These deliberations have been re-scheduled to take place during the annual Conference to be held in March 2001.

Several changes have taken place at the Center. Effat Keyman began work as Coordinator of the Center, and has quickly integrated into Center activity. I am confident that her wishes for her success will be fulfilled.

Ms. Michal Bar has joined the Center as a researcher. We welcome her with our best wishes for fruitful and meaningful research.

Last, but by no means least, Professor Benjamin Kedourie is beginning a sabbatical year in the United States. Best wishes to him for a fruitful year, and we hope that he will continue to remain in close touch (via email, telephone, and visits with the Center, if by chance beforehand).

The Third Sector in Times of Crisis. Continued from page 8

A more severe effect has been felt by organizations engaged in sports, culture, and social services, many of which have experienced at least a temporary blow to their prestige and to their budgets. Common to the activities of these non-profit organizations is the absence of the events they sponsor: the overwhelming majority of which have been either postponed indefinitely or moved to other venues.

By far the most severe effect has been that experienced by the organizations that may be characterized as agents of civil society. This is specifically at this level that the crisis has transpired. Affected here are non-profit organizations working in the areas of coexistence, tolerance, equality, and among populations directly impacted by recent events—particularly Israeli Arabs and Palestinians.

The adverse effects may be studied from a few different angles. In some cases, the partner in an explicitly cooperative activity has "renounced the partnership," and is no longer willing to take part, thereby destroying the joint project undertaken at its inception. In other cases, the leaders of these projects have experienced a change of heart and have begun withdrawing support for activity that, in their minds, is out of step with the new reality. This in turn has affected the ability of these same organizations: the reality on the ground has indeed changed radically and consequently the new legitimacy enjoyed by these non-profits has been undermined.

Recovery

A few weeks after the outbreak of the current round of violence, it was possible to discern the slow recuperation of organizations active in the arena of coexistence. These groups have taken to soliciting support for their earlier mode of activity, through the active exposure of a particular political line. This was done through newspaper ads, rallies, and demonstrations, however, the implementation of ongoing projects has not been resumed. In effect, these have been transformed into organizations that plan and implement projects to those that are engaged in some type of protest (when equipped with the necessary financial and human resources) or simply keep a low profile and wait for the storm to pass (typically small organizations lacking the financial wherewithal).

New Partnerships

Political or social crises inevitably induce a process of organizational realignment—through the altering of focus and substance of activity among the most seasoned non-profit bodies and the establishment of new organizations alongside. An example of the former is the "Committee Against the Demolition of Homes" that has consistently
The Third Sector at a Period of Crisis

The political crisis in which Israel is currently embroiled has directly impacted all the organizations of the third sector. One may gauge the effect of this crisis on a number of levels and according to a variety of factors, two were chosen at this time: the type of activity and the time factor from the beginning of the crisis till the first signs of recovery (this article is written 6 weeks into the crisis). Identifying and classifying the damages, one sees the huge scope of the civil society and its activities in the existence field. As big as the field is, the loss of programs and projects seems devastating.

Time Factor
During the first few days of a monumental political crisis such as this between Israel and the Palestinians, the effects on the entire third sector are uniformly detrimental. The topics that normally occupy the public agenda were suddenly displaced by those related to the ongoing crisis. The activities that have been affected are mainly all those that fall outside the categorization of routine day-to-day functions such as conferences and seminars, fundraising campaigns, planned marketing efforts. Following the first phase, as the outbreaks of violence became almost “routine”, the changes in the activity of nonprofits became evident according to their sphere of activity and the degree to which they were adversely affected by the crisis.

Sphere of Activity
In terms of the effects of the crisis according to the sphere of activity, third sector organizations may be divided into three categories based on the degree to which their activities were impacted by the crisis:

Lowest Severe
These are organizations engaged in service provision (health and social welfare, education, and research), which have no direct bearing on the crisis and experienced no immediate funding problem (the funds for their general operating costs are largely derived from public or government sources) and are provided on an annual basis. These organizations therefore did not face an immediate, fundamental threat, nor were the populations they serve directly affected by the current crisis.

Conference Postponed
“Third Sector, Society and Government: The Image of Civil Society in Israel 2000”

Due to recent events in Israel, the conference “Third Sector, Society and Government: The Image of Civil Society in Israel 2000”, sponsored jointly by ICTR, the Prime Minister’s Office and The New Israel Fund, scheduled for October 25, 2000 at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, was postponed.

The conference under the same co-sponsors has been re-scheduled to take place as part of ICTR’s Annual Spring Conference on March 26, 2001. The conference (a single day) will take place at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva.

The program will feature the following sessions:
1. Characteristics of Civil Society in Israel
   - Empirical data on the size and nature of civil society from the ‘Israeli Third Sector Database’
2. Civil Society - Dividing orUniting Society?
3. Policy to Promote Civil Society - A Necessity? Around Which Parameters?
4. Civil Society in Israel - A View from the Knesset

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