



B'Tzedek: A New Generation of Leadership

B'Tzedek Communities Program - The Concept

As we strive today to engage across the Israel-Diaspora divide in innovative ways, we are challenged to bring new conceptions and practices to bear on the critical challenges of Jewish identity, Jewish life and Jewish purpose.

Within this context, Israeli non-profit B'Tzedek ([see www.btzedek.org.il](http://www.btzedek.org.il)) is excited to offer a limited number of Jewish communities a unique opportunity to engage with Israelis who are involved in civil society, social justice issues and international humanitarian development work. By creating a shared space in which to attend to the needs of local and Israeli needs as well as those of non-Jews in Africa and other areas of great distress and suffering, we will move the conversation between us to a focus beyond ourselves. We believe that through working together for *Tikkun Olam* we will open significant new lines of communication between us and powerful new ways of enacting Jewish peoplehood.

Through this B'Tzedek Communities program, B'Tzedek seeks to contribute to a broad sense of belonging and responsibility amongst Israeli and Diaspora participants, one that includes the global community. They will learn about national and global issues, develop partnerships and become active to advance a shared moral vision.

We will develop with communities – with both individual constituents and multi-agency and multi-site initiatives - a range of educational and hands-on partnering opportunities. We will tailor our work to fit your needs, your existing programs and your ways of operating. Participation in this program will involve a fixed and as necessary by-component cost.

The Program

B'Tzedek offers either a range modules to choose in a fashion or, for the more process oriented, the possibility of designing a longer-term strategy together. We will work with community representatives to tailor the program to integrate with your existing efforts and to create new initiatives based on your needs. The options for engagement to date are:

1. Educational materials and opportunities

We deal with social justice issues in Israel and those related to our belonging to a larger human family and our responsibilities to engage in humanitarian work and global justice issues. As well as using the more traditional Jewish and Israeli sources, we 'mine' Israeli civil society (through recorded interviews, video, photographic records) for insight into the minds and hearts of Israelis as they weigh their responsibilities to 'home' with more universal concerns. What drives them forward? Is their action connected to their being Jewish, being Israeli or being Zionist?

B'Tzedek can offer Educational kits and consulting, a high-end portable photographic and video exhibition with an accompanying learning kit, scholars in residence to visit your communities; and we would like to hear other ideas from you.

2. Mifgash (meeting, dialogue) opportunities

Whether integrated into trips to Israel or through electronic means, B'Tzedek can create opportunities for community leadership and members to meet with Israelis engaged in or directly doing Israeli social justice and international development work.



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We can arrange:

- Conference calls with leaders of Israeli civil society and Government agencies engaged in Israeli and international issues.
- Dialogue with B'Tzedek's student leaders who are active in Israeli social justice issues and Brit Olam's student leaders who have designed and lead the implementation of international development projects in several countries.

3. Involvement opportunities

- Raising awareness and funds to support an Israeli social justice or international development project
- Volunteering to work on a joint campaign around specific issues
- Make joint site visits with Israelis, after a preparation period together, to an international project in a developing country.
- On-site volunteer opportunities in a developing country for a short or long-term volunteer opportunity, possibly based on using professional skills, with Israelis from Brit Olam

4. Advocacy Campaign

We invite you to join with us in making a difference to Israel's pressing social issues (for example, see the international policy network on B'Tzedek's site) and the situation in Darfur, Congo and other places affected by violence in Africa.

The Capacity

B'Tzedek's capacity to offer this partnership is due in part to its own strategic partnership with Brit Olam, Israel's premier International Humanitarian organization. Brit Olam was the Israeli organization that reached more people than any other after the Tzunami. During Israel's recent war, Brit Olam galvanized a voluntary campaign to visit 3,500 people in bomb-shelters in the north with psycho-therapeutic programming and support. In May, 2007, Brit Olam spearheaded Israel's first benefit concert for Africa. Over 4,000 people attended the sold-out concert in Tel Aviv with leading Israeli performers including Achinoam Nini (Noa) and Aviv Geffen. It initiated a coalition of agencies to generate support for the victims of the violence in Darfur. Brit Olam has within its ranks, as volunteers and professionals, people with hundreds of years of experience in international emergency response and development projects.

Combined with B'Tzedek's expertise in leadership development, education and participant activation, this partnership with Brit Olam creates significant capacity to create meaningful global society-building efforts and to engage with the values and Jewish-Zionist dimensions of such action. Together, we are uniquely positioned to educate and engage young Israeli and Jewish people worldwide in learning and action to provide innovative social action and humanitarian relief to victims of the violence in Darfur, the Congo and other areas of need.

The Next Step

If these possibilities excite you, please be in touch. I look forward to hearing from you.

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