

## Activity Report (Summary version)

Fiscal Year	FY 2019
Code No	19-A-184

Name of Organization	Parents Circle – Families Forum	Applied Amount
		9,000 USD
Project Title	On the Road to Reconciliation	Granted Amount
		9,000 USD
		Country which project was operated
		Israel/Palestine

### About organization and granted activity

#### ■ About organization

The Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF) is a non-profit organization established in 1995. The PCFF is a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 600 families, all of whom have lost an immediate family member to the ongoing. The overall goal of PCFF is to drive a bottom-up reconciliation process between Israelis and Palestinians as a necessary catalyst and foundation for a sustainable future negotiated peace agreement. The organization thus utilizes all resources available in education, public meetings and the media, to spread these ideas.

#### ■ Done activity by NPF Grant

Dialogue Meetings (DMs): In this peace education program Israeli and Palestinian bereaved members of PCFF describe their personal loss and their choice of reconciliation and nonviolence, as a way to encourage the participants to transform their own feelings of suspicion, fear and hatred into understanding, empathy and humanization. DMs were conducted in Israel, East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Each DM included the facilitators' personal story followed by an open discussion. For most participants this was the first time they met someone from the other side, heard their story, and saw their partnership, and was exposed to alternative narratives and messages of reconciliation & non-violence.

Facilitator Workshops: PCFF provides its DM facilitators with support and training in order for them to effectively convey messages of reconciliation and reach wider audiences. In the project period, the most urgent need was adapting to the new reality, created by the COVID-19 pandemic, in which DMs were held on-line rather than in-person. PCFF conducted facilitator workshops with an expert in public speaking, providing facilitators with important tools for successful facilitation online.

#### ■ Output or Outcome

NPF grant enabled PCFF to conduct 24 Dialogue Meetings (DMs) to approximately 600 Israelis and Palestinians and 2 workshops to approximately 50 DMs facilitators.

The Dialogue Meetings were successful in positively changing the perceptions of the participants about the 'other', increasing their empathy towards the 'other' and their motivation to learn more about them, and strengthening their belief in the possibility of peace. According to DMs evaluation, the project achieved the following results:

- 77% of Dialogue Meetings participants reported a positive change in their perception towards the other side.
- 80% of DMs participants reported an increase in levels of empathy towards the 'other'.
- 74% of DMs participants reported an increase in their optimistic feelings towards the possibility of peace.
- 88% of DMs participants expressed a desire to learn more about the other side.
- 94% of DMs participants reported feeling such meetings to be important.
- 88% of DMs participants reported that they will share their experience with friends and/or family members creating a ripple effect to the program and increasing its impact beyond the participants themselves.