



July 25th 2021

MK Aida Touma Suliman
The Knesset

Subject: Assistance in creating employment offices in the Bedouin villages in the Negev

Dear Aida,

We approach you following our joint activities in the field of employment of Arab women in the Negev and following our letter to the Minister of Economy, Orna Barbibay.

1. The letter to the Minister, attached in the appendix, details our claims about the need to establish employment offices in the Bedouin villages, some of them are multi-resident communities. In our view it is unjust that Jewish small communities such as Mitzpe Ramon and Yeruham will operate employment offices while Bedouin villages larger than them do not, except the city of Rahat. The existing spread of employment offices is not based on equal criterion and is unjust.
2. The existing spread of employment offices harms the development of employment in the Bedouin villages where unemployment is high and 80% of the children live in poverty.
3. The existing spread entails infringing on the rights of the Bedouin job seekers as they are required to travel to nearby or distant Jewish settlements for service. The unequal spread involves special harm to specific populations such as job seekers with mobility difficulties, people without cars, and especially women with no car or driving license and women who have to come with their babies and children.
4. We believe that in view of the severe and worsening employment situation in the Bedouin villages, a reexamination of the spreading of unemployment offices is required more than ever.



5. In a separate letter sent to the Minister Orna Barbibay, advocate Nariman Shade-Zuabi from Adalah, on behalf of Adala and NCF , is demanding the establishment of 6 employment offices.
6. At the same time we contacted the Equal Employment Commission and the Equal Rights Commissioner for People with Disabilities asking them to prepare professional reviews and join our demands. We are also contacting heads of the Arab local authorities, as well as other bodies, to join and support us.
7. We understand that the Government Employment Agency is preparing a positive paper to the Minister regarding our requests. There may be now an option for a positive change. Enclosed is the Director General of the Employment Service to the letter.
8. We will deeply appreciate it if you contact the Minister of Economy, or any of her advisors, and ask for her intervention in establishing the employment offices and request a discussion in the relevant committees of the Knesset. We also urge you to help in including these employment offices in the five years plan for the Arab communities and in the State budget for 2021-2022. We will gladly assist in any way needed.

Thanking you in advance,

Hanan Alsaneh and Haia Noach
Executive Directors
Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality