

Dear NCF friends and partners,

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter! As we enter this new month, we're eager to update you on the latest developments and initiatives within our organization. Thank you for your continued interest and support in our mission.

Budget cuts in Arab communities

We have submitted a paper to the Chairman of the Finance Committee, MK Rabbi Moshe Gafni, highlighting the critical issue of proposed budget cuts to essential programs benefiting the Arab and Bedouin communities, as well as initiatives aimed at addressing crime within Arab society. These proposed cuts, totaling 15%, directly threaten the progress and development of these communities, particularly in the Negev region, and could have severe implications for employment, poverty levels, and overall societal well-being.

We strongly urge the Finance Committee to reconsider these proposed cuts, as they disproportionately affect Arab and Bedouin communities without valid justification. Our demands include the cancellation of these cuts and the preservation of essential funding for programs aimed at reducing disparities, promoting employment, and addressing societal challenges. Additionally, we emphasize the importance of maintaining support for initiatives that contribute to the economic development and empowerment of these communities, thereby fostering civil equality and gender equality in Israeli society.

Human Rights & Civil Society Organizations in Israel Demand:

הפסקת אש עכשיו وقف إطلاق النار الآن

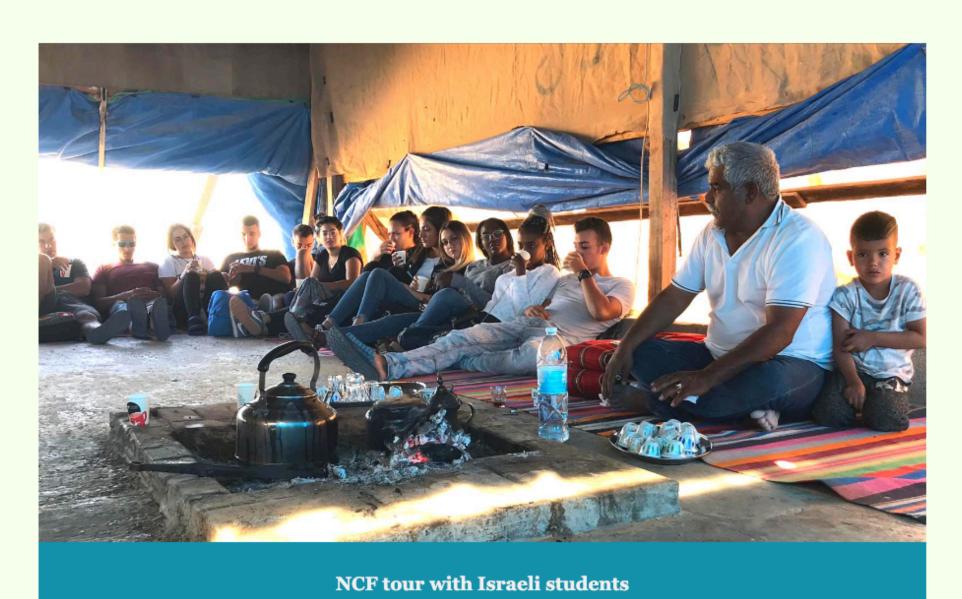
Ceasefire Now

Petition supported by NCF and other civil society organizations

· Petition for a ceasefire with Gisha with other NGOs

NCF has joined several other civil society and human rights organizations based in Israel in supporting a petition calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza and the immediate release of hostages held there. The ongoing conflict, which was exacerbated by the Hamas attack on October 7, has had devastating consequences.

The healthcare system is on the verge of collapse, hospitals are overburdened and there is a shortage of vital supplies. Food and clean water are in short supply. 1.7 million people have been displaced and are living in catastrophic conditions in overcrowded accommodation. Urgent action is needed to prevent further loss of life and address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. "We urgently call for an immediate ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access to Gaza, as well as the unconditional release of all hostages by Hamas. We also call on the international community to uphold international humanitarian law to protect civilians and ensure human rights for Israelis and Palestinians".



· Exciting News: You can book a tour

As we enter the new year, we are excited to relaunch our Human Rights Tours of the Negev!

These tours offer a unique opportunity to explore the reality of the Arab

Bedouin communities in the Negev/Naqab. Join us on an insightful journey into the challenges faced by the Bedouin population.

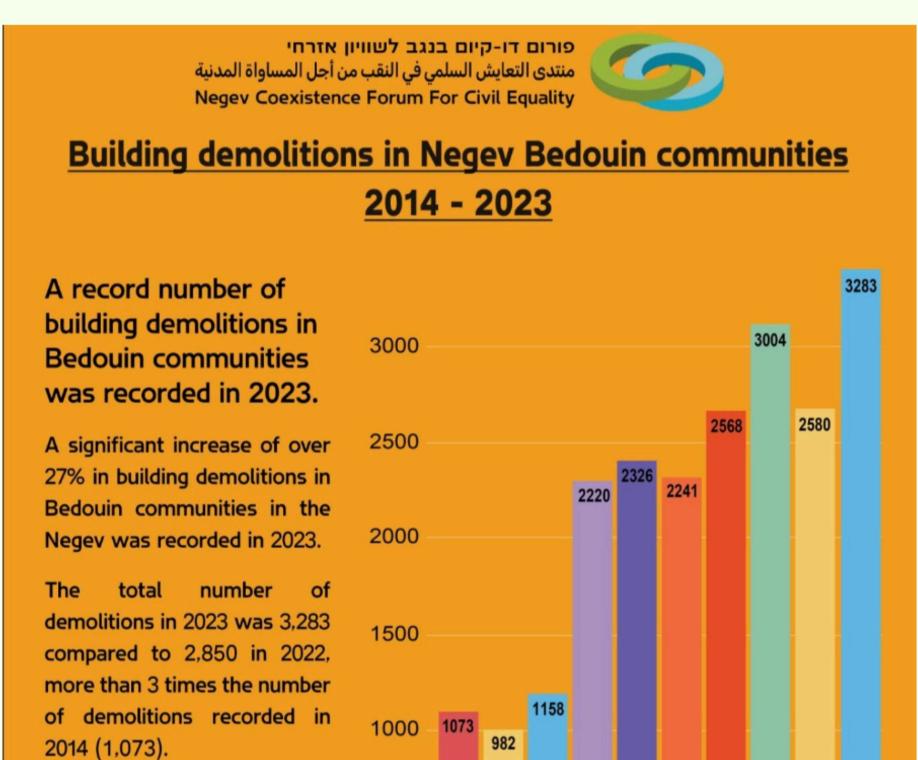
Our tours, which focus on civil rights, politics and women's rights, offer valuable insights into the historical, social and political landscape of the region. Our tours promise an educational experience. Contact our tour coordinator Huda Abu Obaid at Toursnaqabncf@gmail.com or call +972 543387208 to book your tour or for more information. You can also book a tour by filling out the-form-available-on-our-website.

We look forward to embarking on this journey with you!



· Record numbers of demolitions

A record number of structures and house demolitions was recorded in the year in 2023 in the Bedouin communities of the Naqab/Negev in 2023. 3283 demolitions took place, according to the <u>Israeli newspaper</u> <u>Maariv</u>, with an increase of 27% from last year.



We stand in solidarity with the Bedouin citizens of Israel and all others who are still held hostage in Gaza, hoping for their swift and safe return. We continue to strive for a ceasefire and pursue diplomatic solutions that will end the bloodshed. Our thoughts are with them, and we remain committed to their liberation and the pursuit of lasting peace.



Donate Here to support our work











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In accordance with the law, the Negev Coexistence Forum for Civil Equality is proud to note that as a result of cooperation with friendly countries and international organizations that promote human rights, most of the funding for our activities comes from "foreign entities.