



## **Mission and Strategy**

Achvat Amim (“Solidarity of Nations” in Hebrew) is a unique five month volunteer program based in Jerusalem, for participants ages 21 to 30, that directly engages with the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through grassroots human rights work and critical education, based on the core value of self-determination for all peoples. Our vision is a reality of peace, justice, and self-determination for all peoples in this land, within a framework where the full human, civil, and political rights of all people and peoples are recognized and actualized.

As experienced community organizers in Israel, we know that the best way to approach challenging social and political problems is to engage people in meaningful processes of self-examination, empowerment, and relationship building. In parallel, we need to create spaces for communities to develop shared goals and strategies for positive social change, rooted in their unique identities and traditions.

Our mission is to build a movement to support self-determination for all peoples, starting with an empowered and educated Jewish community which acts in partnership and solidarity with locals on the ground. As Jewish educators and activists, we have identified three strategies: 1. *transform* our own Jewish community to act from a place of empathy, compassion and meaningful identity, 2. *bring* more people into the movement, in partnership with Israelis and Palestinians, and 3. *develop* leaders within the movement for self-determination for all people and peoples.

## **Methods and Implementation**

The program is based on a participatory framework for active individual and group engagement with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which allows participants to contribute to grassroots peace and justice work and take part in honest, deep and open learning about the conflict. This is all within a supportive setting of self-examination and exploring social and political responsibility connected to participants’ own identity, while empowering them to develop their practical, emotional, and intellectual skills to become leaders in the movement. The majority of participants connect their feelings of responsibility towards peace and justice and their relationship to their Jewish identity, and come away with practical tools, grounded experience, and meaningful supportive relationships to take further action. This is a one of a kind program in its intensive and holistic approach, and it engages deeply with all aspects of individual and community life in a five month fully immersive process.

*In the words of a past participant, “It’s a delicate and difficult thing – finding a fitting space to learn in, a group of people to think, strategize, and find ways to act with. Achvat Amim does this better than most every experiential educational group I’ve been a part of...The kindness, empathy, and integrity the organizers bring to the process allows you to find ways to take care of yourself and stay healthy – something painfully absent in many activist spaces.”*