



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



מרכז האוניברסיטה העברית לקיימות
The Hebrew University Center for Sustainability
مركز الجامعة العبرية للاستدامة



Scientific Progress

The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for The Advancement of Peace is the largest research institute in Israel and the Middle East studying the advancement of peace. The Institute has 70 research fellows focusing on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and on other countries in the Middle East, as well as Asia, Africa, and Latin America. The research in the Institute is highly interdisciplinary, adapting historical, cultural, psychological, political and socio-economic approaches, and is used as reference both in Israel and around the world for the study of the advancement of peace. The Institute promotes collaboration with scholars from the Palestinian Authority and Middle Eastern countries.

Prof. Yifat Maoz (Noah Mozes Department of Communication and Journalism) studies polarization, blame, dialogue, and hatred in conflicts, specifically between Israeli Jews and Palestinians. She also studies the interaction between digital platforms and psychological aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Community Impact

The Truman Institute, in collaboration with the School of Social Work and Social Welfare and the Jerusalem Municipality, established a project for enhancing the communal and social status of Arab communities in the city. The first stage of the project focuses on providing intensive community work in Sur Baher, an Arab village in Jerusalem, by a strong nucleus of HUJI Arabic-speaking social work students and their advisors. By supporting residents who struggle with dropping out of school, family dysfunction, early marriages, and violence within the family, the purpose of the project is to promote residents' welfare and education, empowering and uniting the community.

The Inter-Religious Beit Midrash program invites Jewish, Muslim and Christian Arab students to meet and study passages from the Bible, the Quran and the New Testament, discussing peace and unity and their relation to daily life. The program aspires to bring students of different religions and backgrounds closer together, while sharing mutual values of peace that are common to the three religions. Students get together, understand and learn about how to see the world through different perspectives, and how others are more similar to them than they initially may have thought.

Studies and Learning Initiatives

The Faculty of Social Sciences offers a Master's Program in Conflict Research, Management and Resolution, in cooperation with the Swiss Center for Conflict Research. Students learn about the theories, methodologies, strategies, and techniques for managing and resolving conflicts between social, economic, ethnic, and political groups, as well as states. This interdisciplinary program combines approaches from social psychology, international relations and political science, communication and media studies, sociology, education, and law.

The Law Faculty offers a one-year Master's Degree in Law, specializing in Human Rights and Transitional Justice and taught in English. The program offers academic courses taught by top legal experts from Israel, Europe, and North America, including courses on international humanitarian law, counter-terrorism law, international courts and tribunals, transitional justice, the law of the United Nations, legal aspects of the Middle East conflict, international criminal law, and international human rights law. The faculty is comprised of top academics and practitioners, including past and present members of the UN Human Rights Committee.

The Minerva Center for Human Rights and HUJI's Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity won a significant three-year grant from the European Union Peacebuilding Initiative for the establishment and operation of a new program whose main purpose is to create a multicultural academic platform to encourage entrepreneurship and community involvement around peacemaking. This is a unique program enabling experiential and interactive learning in project-based courses, and in multicultural, diverse groups of Jewish and Palestinian students across all academic units at Hebrew University. The program deals with issues related to life in a multicultural society and transitional justice and community action in divided cities, with an emphasis on the urban space of Jerusalem.

Actions on Campus

Merkaz Brera is a social organization established by HUJI law students, with the assistance of the Faculty of Law. The center aims to act on a range of levels to assist different populations in Jerusalem in obtaining their rights as equal citizens in the State of Israel.

The Abba Eban Centre for Israeli Diplomacy operates under the auspices of the Truman Institute. Ambassadors, foreign ministers, and policy makers from all over the world visit the Centre to participate in lectures or briefings by Truman scholars relating to current issues on Israeli-Palestinian relations and the Middle East.