

***Israeli Hope:
A Potential Universal Model
Within or Across Borders, for
Multicultural Dignity and Appreciation for Parallel Narratives***

March, 2017, saw the publication of "Israeli Hope in Academia," an outline for shared human experiences in education -- <http://www.iataskforce.org/sites/default/files/resource/resource-1524.pdf> -- in response to President Reuven Rivlin's call to **move beyond tribalism toward knowing, dignifying, and including everyone for the good of all.**

Israel Diversity Initiative Launches

The Jerusalem Post -- 28 May 2017

<https://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Israel-Diversity-Initiative-launches-494152>

Taking up the challenge issued by President Reuven Rivlin to integrate what he calls the four tribes (secular, haredi, National Religious and Arab) into the work force, a group of 27 venture capitalists, academics and senior staff of the Labor and Social Services Ministry, led by Alan Feld, launched the Israel Diversity Initiative on Sunday at a meeting with Rivlin at the President's Residence. Feld said: "We hope that we can build something together and create an ethos of partnership."

By early April, 2018, Prof. Mona Khoury-Kassabri headed the Steering Committee for "Israeli Hope in Academia" at The Center for the Study of Multiculturalism and Diversity at The Hebrew University, Jerusalem – <http://csmd.huji.ac.il/book/israeli-hope-academy>

April 23-14, 2018, 33 educational leaders and policymakers left from President Rivlin's residence for touring together through diverse communities, listen to differing narratives from a spectrum of cultures throughout the land.

The diverse, elite educators on this historic tour had their own powerful opportunities to listen carefully to one another's personal narratives, facilitated by professional tour guide, Elad Vazana, of **Tours for Change** -- <http://www.tour4change.com>

Press Article #1

(with rough translation from Hebrew)

New initiative: A joint journey for religious, secular, ultra-Orthodox and Arab teachers

This year, 20 educational teams will set out on a joint journey to Bnei Brak, Kfar Kassem, Upper Nazareth, Migdal HaEmek and Kfar HaRoeh in order to create an acquaintance between them and bridge social gaps.

YNet News -- 23 April 2018

<https://www.ynet.co.il/articles/0,7340,L-5238358,00.html>



A three-day trip will bring together teachers from different sectors of Israeli society to create an acquaintance between them and bridge social gaps in Israel. This is the new initiative, "Israeli Hope," by the Education Ministry and the President's Residence, details of which were published Monday at the President's Residence in Jerusalem.



Rivlin and Bennett. "Israeli Hope"

Religious, secular, Arab and ultra-Orthodox teachers are expected to visit the various sectors. In 2018, 20 educational teams will leave for the journey and the pilot project is expected to expand. The journey will take place in Bnei Brak, Kfar Kassem, Upper Nazareth, Migdal Haemek and Kfar HaRoeh.

The groups will travel after preparatory meetings and will meet afterwards. One of the main goals of the initiative, in addition to getting to know each other, is the gathering of knowledge about the various groups, while preserving the unique characteristics of each of them.



Participants at The President's Residence in Jerusalem

The initiative comes against the background of significant demographic changes that have occurred in the education system in recent years. Thus, for example, in the State of Israel, 52% of the pupils in the state stream participated in the state stream, 9% in the haredi stream, 16% in the state religious sector, and 23% in the Arab sector.

In 2018, 38% of the pupils in the State education system, 22% in the ultra-Orthodox stream, 15% in the religious state, and 25% in the Arab sector. These demographic changes, according to the initiators, "renew the face of Israeli society, and in this reality there is no longer a majority and a minority of clarifiers with regard to fundamental ideological questions.

"Israeli Hope' is only one tool, one possibility, to experience and recognize Israeli society and the great challenge that we face in the next 70 years," said President Reuven Rivlin. "I hope that more will follow, and that very soon a meeting with Israeli society will be part of the basic training and professional development of every school principal, supervisor, teacher and teacher in Israel."

Minister of Education Naftali Bennett added: "We are one family, if we are not united, we will not be." "As a start-up nation, we must encourage the debate, not be afraid to relate to the merits of an argument, not to a claim and to listen," he said. He promised that his ministry would invest in the Arab sector and therefore expected a significant change in the gaps between Jewish and Arab students. "Within five to seven years we will be able to close the gaps between Jewish and Arab students," he said.

Education Ministry Director-General Shmuel Abuav said: "The journey promises a sense of unity and social sensitivity as part of the ministry's plan to strengthen education for values."

Press Article #2

(with rough translation from Hebrew)

The Ministry of Education: "An Israeli Journey of Hope for Education Teams"

KaniIsrael -- The Internet Journal of Israeli Cities and Settlements

23 April 2018

<https://kanisrael.co.il/%D7%9E%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%93-%D7%94%D7%97%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%95%D7%9A-%D7%99%D7%A6%D7%90-%D7%9C%D7%93%D7%A8%D7%9A-%D7%9E%D7%A1%D7%A2-%D7%AA%D7%A7%D7%95%D7%95%D7%94-%D7%99%D7%A9%D7%A8%D7%90%D7%9C%D7%99/>

Education Minister Bennett: As the 'start-up' nation, we must encourage the debate, not to be afraid, to relate to the merits of an argument, not to a claim, and to listen. I trust you, the members of the education system, who will be able to assimilate among our children this line that creates a colorful mosaic among the people. President of the State, Rivlin: "Israel's journey of hope is only one tool, one opportunity, to experience and recognize Israeli society and the great challenge that we face in the next seventy years, and I hope that more will follow, and will be part of the basic training and professional development of every school principal, supervisor, teacher and teacher in Israel.



The "Israeli Journey of Hope for Education Teams" came out this morning (Monday, 8 Iyar 5771) as part of the 70th anniversary of the State, initiated by President Reuven Rivlin and Minister of Education MK Naftali Bennett. As part of the trip, for three days, "educational teams" will visit various sectors of Israeli society; Religious, secular, Arab and ultra-Orthodox.

The trips by Education Teams are a flagship of the Israeli Hope in Education program, which is shared by the President's Residence, the Ministry of Education and the Dov Lautman Educational Policy Forum.

The choice of trips by "education teams" is based on the understanding that teachers have also studied in separate educational streams and work in separate streams of education, and therefore need knowledge, tools and experiences to deepen the issue of partnership between sectors in Israeli society.

Each group, which will embark on the journey, will undergo preparatory meetings, three days of travel and a meeting of processing and conclusion.

In addition, each group of teachers will be able to shape their journey from a wide menu of potential stations that express the rich diversity of Israeli society.

During the course of 2018, the "Israel Journey of Hope" will be operated as a pilot, in which 20 groups will leave - including supervisors, school principals, and teachers from the four education sectors. The plan is planned to expand to hundreds of additional schools.

President Reuven Rivlin: "An Israeli journey of hope is only one tool, one possibility, to experience and recognize Israeli society and the great challenge that we face in the next seventy years.

I hope that more will follow, and that very soon a meeting with Israeli society will be part of the basic training and professional development of every school principal, supervisor, teacher and teacher in Israel.

"My dear education minister, as you said at the Israel Prize ceremony, may the seventy-first year be the year of the opening of our borders, a year of free love. I thank you, the Director-General of the Ministry of Education, for the initiative and for this important move, and for all the professionals in the Ministry who take part in it.

I wish all of us a successful journey, and we must succeed, because Israeli hope - begins with education. "

Education Minister Naftali Bennett:

"We are one family, if we are not united, we will not be."

Minister Bennett spoke at the event and said that "our greatest challenge in the State of Israel is to create a common Israeli ethos. We are one family, with multiple opinions and positions, that is all beauty.

A few days ago, in my speech at the Israel Prize ceremony, I gave a promise to advance unity among the people, and today the beginning of repayment. We must understand that if we are not united - we simply will not be.

As a 'start-up' nation we must encourage debate, not fear, to relate to the merits of an argument, not to a claim, and to listen.

I trust you, the members of the education system, who will be able to assimilate among our children this line that creates a colorful mosaic among the people. Go forth and succeed!"

Director of the Ministry of Education, Mr. Shmuel Abuav; "An Israeli journey of hope is an educational journey from a bridge, a journey that connects the ends of Israeli society.

The journey promises a spirit of unity and social sensitivity, as part of the Ministry's program to strengthen education for values, and we intend to deepen and expand the number of educational teams embarking on the journey. "

President of the President's Residence, Mr. Harel Tobi; "An 'Israeli hope journey' is underway. I would like to thank the Director of the Ministry of Education for the joint trip of the President's Residence and the Ministry of Education - for a common goal.

I call upon the education teams in Israel from all streams and sectors to join us in a journey to familiarize ourselves with ourselves, a journey to bring down the barriers, a journey to free love, and this is the only way we can renew Israeli hope. "

In the morning, a meeting was held at the President's Residence, and then the bus of the first educational teams, including 33 Matteh members, set out.

The launch journey goes on the following sites:

Bnei Brak - Ponevezh Yeshiva and Hesed Ezer Mizion.

Kafr Qasem - the industrial zone shared by Kafr Kassem and Rosh Ha'ayin.

Nazareth Illit - A discussion with members of Midreshet Oranim about the secular settlement at the beginning of the state and a visit to the urban kibbutz.

Migdal HaEmek - Youth Center.

Kfar HaRoeh - The story of the beginning of the working settlement of religious Zionism.