

Activity Report December 2018 – May 2019

May 2019

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) is a policy driven, non-profit organization protecting the human rights and civil liberties of all people living in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

ACRI upholds the pillars of democracy by demanding that duty bearers change policies and practices that violate basic rights and liberties. ACRI works together with the courts, the Knesset, government agencies and civil society to tackle Israel's most urgent human rights injustices.

This report covers ACRI's work in each of our strategic focus areas: the Arab minority, social and economic rights, civil and political rights, immigration and status, the occupied territories and the public hotline. It also covers ACRI's work in promoting a public discourse about human rights via policy advocacy, public outreach and human rights education.

ACRI's Legal Department

1. Arab Minority Rights in Israel

Health Rights in the Negev: Together with residents of the village of Al-Fur'a, the Regional Council of Unrecognized Villages in the Negev, Adalah, Bimkom, and Physicians for Human Rights, ACRI submitted a petition to the Supreme Court against the establishment of a mine at Sde Barir. Four Bedouin villages are situated in the area threatened by the plan. In the petition ACRI argued that the establishment of the mine is liable to lead to the demolition of dozens of homes and the uprooting of residents from their villages. The mine will also expose residents of the area to significant health risks.

Right to Equality

- ACRI continues to progress the appeal [submitted](#) to the Supreme Court on December 23, 2018 to overturn the Nation-State Law. On December 31st, 2018, it was decided that the appeal, along with eleven previously submitted appeals by other individuals or bodies, will be discussed by eleven judges. ACRI's petition argued that the law severely violates equality, democracy and the rights of the Arab minority. A hearing is expected to be held in June 2019.
- ACRI [wrote](#) to the Director-General of the Ministry of Education asking him to ensure that a new learning portal providing free online lessons be made available in Arabic.
- ACRI continues to represent Arab residents of Nazareth Illit in their petition to establish the **first Arab school in the city**. After a hearing in April 2019, the municipality was given three months to complete a review of the education needs in the city before reaching a policy decision.
- ACRI contacted the government committee responsible for determining the names of communities, historical sites, and geographical landmarks, and demanded that the Arab society be duly represented on the 26-person committee, which currently includes only one Arab representative.
- ACRI wrote to Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon regarding the sweeping policy of **demanding identity cards from people of "Arab appearance"** on buses entering the hospital compound. Palestinian

passengers are routinely taken off the buses. ACRI argued that this constitutes improper and humiliating profiling undertaken without due authority.

Planning and Building

- ACRI has begun assisting the residents of the Syrian villages in the Golan Heights – Majdal Shams, Masada, Buq'ata, and Ein Qiniya – in their struggle against a **plan to establish dozens of wind turbines** on the surrounding farmland. This plan will have a devastating impact on the residents' lives in terms of town planning, health and environmental conditions, and income.

Rights of the Bedouin-Arab Population in the Negev

- ACRI continues to work with the residents of the unrecognized Bedouin villages, particularly Wadi a-Na'am and Um Metnan, in their struggle for recognition and planning processes.
- ACRI contacted the Home Front Command and demanded that the names of the unrecognized Bedouin villages be added to its cell phone alert application so that residents can benefit from the service.
- After the completion of a plan for supplementary adult education among the Bedouin-Arab population of the Negev, ACRI submitted a freedom of information request to the Ministry of Education in order to obtain data and information about adult education programs.

2. Social and Economic Rights

Equal Access to Housing: The Gindi Group real estate company marketed apartments exclusively to members of the "Hever" club (army professionals) at a substantial discount and with benefits that were not offered to the general public. Following [ACRI's appeal](#), which claimed that the marketing method was discriminatory, the Israel Lands Authority (ILA) invited the Gindi Group to a hearing. In April, the ILA adopted ACRI's position and determined that marketing solely to the "Hever" club under exclusive and beneficial conditions was discriminatory and harmed the general public's right to equality, imposing a fine of \$270,000 on the Gindi Group. ACRI also submitted in December of 2018 an amicus curiae in a proceeding at the Supreme Court asserting that the "Prohibition of Discrimination Law" also applies to the sale of real-estate.

The Right to Health

- Following ACRI's 2016 petition, filed together with health professionals, the Ministry of Health committed to reducing discrimination in rehabilitation services for people living in the geographic periphery. The Ministry undertook to add more beds to facilities located in the North and South, especially for children; to establish for the first time a professional standard to determine how a rehabilitation center should operate, and to require that health maintenance organizations (HMOs) formulate a uniform rehabilitation policy in all districts throughout the country.
- ACRI appeared before a parliamentary committee that is responsible for setting Ministry of Health **criteria of distance, time, and quality** for health services.
- ACRI contacted the Ministry of Health after Sheba Hospital began to charge **transgender patients** undergoing upper body surgery for silicone implants. ACRI argued that this policy is contrary to the available health basket.

- ACRI warned the Ministry of Health about problems in the structure and procedures of the **emergency rooms for victims of sexual assault**. The ministry replied that it is planning to improve the service and will take ACRI's comments into account.
- ACRI continued to pursue its petition on behalf of residents of the Neve Sha'anani neighborhood demanding the closure of the **new Tel Aviv central bus station**, which constitutes a health and environmental hazard.
- ACRI [appealed to the Minister of Energy and the Director General of the Mekorot](#) Water Company demanding a limit to Mekorot's authority to sever entire communities from water due to debt owed by a local authority.

Rights in the Welfare System

- ACRI wrote to the Minister of Justice demanding that parents be granted **eligibility for legal representation** in the juvenile courts without imposing eligibility tests. ACRI also demanded that the social workers be required to notify parents of their right to representation and to explain how they can exercise this right.
- ACRI submitted an amicus curiae application in an adoption proceeding before the family affairs court involving a minor of Ethiopian origin. ACRI argued that the **parental capacity evaluation tests**, which form a key tool in judicial decisions on adoption, are the subject of serious professional disagreement, particularly in the case of minority populations. Accordingly, the evaluation of parental capacity should be given little weight in the overall decision. The application was rejected, but ACRI continues to address this issue in principle via a position paper advocating reforms in the evaluation of parental capacity for members of minority groups, particularly for parents of Ethiopian origin. ACRI also highlighted the discriminatory use of these tests in hiring practices and in determining the personal quality of candidates for military service.

Averting Discrimination

- ACRI [joined as an amicus curiae](#) in a petition submitted by the national **women's soccer** champion team, Hapoel Beersheva, against the discrimination faced by the team in comparison to men's soccer teams. ACRI also continues to be involved as a ["friend of the court"](#) in a case concerning gender segregation in academics.
- ACRI filed a precedent-setting tort claim on behalf of an Ethiopian-Israeli minor who was subjected to police profiling in three different incidents. ACRI demanded compensation in the amount of NIS 50,000 for the violation of his constitutional rights and mental anguish.
- ACRI submitted an objection to a draft version of regulations permitting local authorities to collect **payment at the entrance to municipal parks**. [ACRI argued that the regulations](#) will be exploited in order to discriminate against the



ACRI ED, Hapoel Be'er Sheva Soccer Team and their legal representative at Court

residents of neighboring local authorities, particularly when the latter are Arabs or Haredim, and that the policy will harm disadvantaged populations.

- ACRI [has written](#) to the Ministry of Welfare and the Attorney General in protest to a move by residents of Zichron Yaakov to bar a hostel for homeless people from opening in their town. ACRI has warned that this action will lead to the concentration of welfare services in disadvantaged areas, violating the principles of distributive justice and equality.
- ACRI continues to monitor the project in cooperation with the Citizens' Empowerment Center in Israel and the Public Knowledge Workshop examining the implementation of 15 key recommendations in the **Report of the Palmor Commission on the Struggle against Racism and Discrimination**. Among other actions, ACRI produced an [information sheet and video clip](#) (Hebrew and Arabic) focusing on the right to state-funded legal representation in discrimination cases; following ACRI's petition, the police announced that the Special Patrol Unit officers and Border Police will also be equipped with body cameras; and ACRI is developing an innovative digital platform for processing complaints of discrimination and racism.

3. Civil and Political Rights

Freedom of Speech: ACRI filed a petition with the Haifa District Court after Mayor Einat Kalish Rotem decided to remove an art piece (entitled "McJesus") from a local exhibition at the Haifa Museum citing that the piece was insulting to the public. When the district court rejected ACRI's petition we appealed to the Supreme Court arguing that the ruling has created a dangerous precedent for **elected officials and politicians to influence freedom of artistic expression**.

- The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs has approached the Swiss Foreign Ministry demanding that its support for the Akevot Institute for Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Research be terminated. ACRI appealed to the Attorney General, asserting that this act is a form of political persecution perpetrated with the sole purpose of harming the organization's activity. In February 2019, the Attorney General accepted ACRI's appeal and ordered that the Foreign Ministry had operated unlawfully and it halt all appeals to foreign governments regarding funding of NGOs.
- ACRI participated in a [multimedia project](#) for leading human rights organizations around the world that are active in the International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLO). The goal of the project is to highlight the dangers inherent in the use of **crowd dispersal tools and methods** by presenting the stories of 11 protestors and passers-by from around the world who were injured by the police during demonstrations.

Freedom of Information

- ACRI [petitioned](#) the Supreme Court on behalf of an historian, demanding that the Israel Security Agency (ISA) be instructed to **declassify archive materials** on its actions to "prevent political subversion in the transit camps" in the 1950s, and to suppress the "Wadi Salib uprising" in 1959. ACRI also demanded that the ISA begin to take proactive steps to declassify archive materials dating back over 50 years.
- After ACRI submitted a petition, the Police Investigations Department notified the Court that by the end of 2019 its database on complaints against police should include **details of enforcement methods used** (including: batons, "skunk" water, Tasers, teargas, and other nonlethal means.)

Right to Privacy

- ACRI submitted an amicus curiae application to Tel Aviv District Court in a hearing concerning the enforcement of parking laws in the city by means of **CCTV cameras** and emphasized the need to define the use of these cameras in law and to maximize the protection of privacy. The District Court refused to accept the request and eventually adopted the state's position on the application.
- ACRI continues to participate in professional forums facilitated by the Ministry of Justice, and attends expert forums at the Israel Democracy Institute and the Institute for Security Studies on issues relating to unfair influences on conscience via the internet.

4. Human Rights in the Occupied Territories

West Bank: In July 2015, the youth Muhammed Ali Kusabeh threw a stone at the windshield of an army jeep in which Colonel Israel Shomer was driving with three other soldiers. Evidence showed that Col. Shomer got out of the jeep, chased the boy, who had fled the scene, and shot him twice in the back of the head, fatally wounding him. Immediately after the shooting, Col. Shomer was shown to have left the scene without calling for medical help for the boy, who was still bleeding on the ground. The investigation against Col. Shomer was closed and he was not prosecuted; while his imminent promotion was delayed.

In March 2019, [ACRI petitioned](#) the High Court of Justice together with Muhammad Ali Kusabeh's parents, demanding that the court order the Attorney General to **file an indictment** against Col. Shomer. We also demanded that Col. Shomer not be appointed commander of the Nahal Brigade, as this is a clear **case of an unlawful shooting and is contrary to accepted military procedures**, ultimately leading to the death of a minor. We claimed that Col. Shomer is a senior officer meant to serve as a model for soldiers, and that refraining from prosecuting him in such a case conveys a problematic and disturbing message regarding the obligation to protect human life and obey both law and orders.

Other items on the OPT unit agenda included:

- ACRI [submitted](#) an amicus curiae application to the Supreme Court, together with Yesh Din, in an appeal against a district court ruling concerning the Mitzpe Kramim outpost. The ruling ignored the rules of international humanitarian law applying to an occupied area and established that Israeli law can be used to facilitate the approval of construction in part of the outpost built on privately-owned Palestinian land.
- Together with Kav LaOved, ACRI contacted the Commander of the Judea and Samaria Police regarding broadsheets circulated in the West Bank threatening to **harm the livelihood of Palestinians** and to deny them work permits in the settlements if they dare to maintain contacts with activists from Ta'ayush or Rabbis for Human Rights. The police replied that they were investigating the matter and working to identify those responsible for circulating the broadsheets.
- ACRI [wrote](#) to the Commissioner of the Israel Prison Service and other bodies demanding that they investigate the **disproportionate violence** used against Palestinian security prisoners from the occupied territories after two prison wardens were stabbed by inmates. The violence continued long after the prisoners who committed the attack had been restrained, raising concern of collective punishment and torture. ACRI was informed that the National Prison Wardens Investigation Unit had opened an investigation into the incident.

- Following ACRI's intervention, ACRI was [informed](#) by the Office of the Legal Advisor for the West Bank that there is no prohibition against **photographing soldiers or checkpoints in Hebron**. ACRI circulated the reply to Palestinian human rights activists who were previously warned otherwise.
- ACRI petitioned the High Court on behalf of Palestinian shepherds in the Jordan Valley, demanding that the IDF halt its practice of evacuating villages in order to carry out drills during Ramadan.

East Jerusalem

- ACRI contacted the Commander of the Border Police in Jerusalem and the Commissioner of Police regarding the **long waiting times** for buses near checkpoint by Shuafat Refugee Camp.
- In response to ACRI's [letter](#) to the Director-General of the Population and Migration Authority, we were informed that by the end of the second quarter of 2019 the authority will ensure that its application for making appointments is also accessible to **Arabic speakers**. The authority will also translate the online forms on its website. ACRI was also informed that efforts are being made to cut telephone waiting times in order to meet the needs of technologically-challenged populations.
- ACRI [appealed](#) the President of Jerusalem District Court and asked that the security guards at the court be informed that they are not permitted to **prevent Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem from entering** the court building or the hearings.
- ACRI organized a **tour of East Jerusalem** for Arab teachers and activists, offering a first-hand view of the problems the residents face in the fields of city planning, services, and legal status. ACRI then produced a video clip summarizing the tour, including explanations about the key issues in the city.
- Together with Ir Amim, Emek Shaveh, and HaMoked – Center for the Defence of the Individual, ACRI ran an **open guided tour for the public in East Jerusalem**. The participants were given a rare opportunity to familiarize themselves with the complex reality in the city and the problems facing residents in the fields of planning, services, and legal status. ACRI also ran a similar tour for Arab teachers and activists, and produced a clip including explanations of the issues discussed by the tour.



Arab teachers and activists tour



Public tour of East Jerusalem

5. Immigration and Status

Status of Children: In January 2019, ACRI successfully to the Administrative Tribunal for Immigration, resulting in residency status being granted to a child born to an Israeli temporary resident. The Population and Immigration Authority had claimed that its procedures are relevant only to the children of permanent residents and not the children or temporary residents, but the court rejected this claim citing unreasonable discrimination. The court accepted ACRI's application of the principles of "the child's best interests" and the right to family life, and gave Authority 90 days set parameters for **regulating status of children of temporary residents**.

- At the end of December 2018, ACRI [submitted a petition](#) jointly with partner organizations demanding the dismissal of the decision by the Population and Migration Authority to remove the collective protection granted to citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Israel and consequentially expelling them back to the DRC. Following the submission of the petition, an order was granted freezing the decision. In February 2019, the Interior Minister ordered the suspension of the decision and the petition was dismissed.
- ACRI continues to pursue the petition submitted with partner organizations against the ["deposit fund,"](#) which is intended to encourage asylum seekers to leave Israel by reducing their income.
- In January 2019, ACRI agreed to dismiss its appeal concerning the **disconnection from electricity and water** of divided apartments in Petach Tikva that mainly house asylum seekers. The petition was dismissed while reserving all of ACRI's arguments. The court ruling formalized the undertaking by the municipality not to disconnect vital infrastructures except in cases of danger to human life.

6. Public Hotline

Leading up to Holocaust Remembrance Day, ACRI worked to get a story of one of our cases about the State's decision to evacuate dozens of Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans from their sheltered housing published in [Haaretz](#). Just hours after the article was published, and due to widespread outrage from across the country, the [Minster of Absorption announced](#) that the decision was not made on his behalf and that the tenants would not be evacuated. In a separate case, the Public Hotline was instrumental in assisting **a woman who had been the victim of domestic violence to exercise her right to receive** increased rental assistance and eligibility for public housing .

[ACRI's Public Hotline](#) includes an attorney who directs the unit, an Arabic coordinator (half-time), and 15 volunteers. Assistance is provided in Hebrew, English, Arabic, and Russian. The Hotline helps individuals to secure their rights and to cope with the violation of rights, refers callers to peer organizations and to state-run assistance centers, prepares information sheets, submits freedom of information requests, and pursues legal correspondence with the authorities. The main issues addressed by the Hotline include: securing rights from the National Insurance Institute; migration and status (with the Interior Ministry), public housing, discrimination, disconnection of electricity, police violence, etc. During the reporting period ACRI processed approximately 800 requests for help. The following are a few examples:

- Via the **Public Housing Forum** ACRI held an event at the Knesset on Public Housing Day.
- [ACRI prevented](#) the **eviction** of dozens of elderly people, many of them Holocaust survivors, from sheltered housing where they were living.

- ACRI accompanied and helped foreign residents and Palestinians during proceedings at the Population and Migration Authority to **receive status**, and was in contact with the National Insurance Institute to ensure they receive their **full rights**.
- After ACRI contacted the Jerusalem Municipality, the **street lighting** in an East Jerusalem neighborhood was repaired.

Human Rights Education

ACRI's Human Rights Education Department works to advance education on human rights and democracy and to promote education against racism. ACRI operates in the education system and teacher training colleges (colleges and schools of education in universities) among Jewish and Arab society in Israel. The activities are conducted in both Hebrew and Arabic through Jewish and Arab educators working together.

For **the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination** marked annually on March 21st, ACRI produced an animated video in Hebrew and Arabic called [“But We Don’t Look Racist.”](#) The video and its accompanying lesson plan by the Human Rights Education Department, also in both languages, deal with latent racism – subtle manifestations of racism and derogatory sentiments — which are expressed on an interpersonal level in everyday interactions. The video and lesson materials provide students with the tools to identify and be aware of such racism, both on their own part and that of others, which can sometimes occur without the intent to harm or exclude. The video was advertised on ACRI's Facebook page, garnering positive feedback from the Ministry of Justice and the Coordination Unit for Combating Racism in the Ministry of Justice.

1. Training, Workshops, Conferences, and Seminars

- During the report period, ACRI ran numerous activities in schools and teacher training colleges, including **training workshops and lectures for students and lecturers** at Al-Qasemi College, the Kibbutz Seminar, Efrata College in Jerusalem, Kaye College in Beersheva, Ruppin College, Ono College, the Arab College of Education Haifa, and Beit Berl College.
- In the first semester of the 2018-2019 academic year, ACRI ran a **semester academic course** at the University of Haifa on the educational response to racism, and began to run a course in the same format at Tel Aviv University for second semester.
- At the end of March ACRI held a **seminar** for students at the Teacher Training Unit in Tel Aviv University on the subject of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and ahead of the Knesset elections. The seminar discussed the issues of political discourse in the classroom, freedom of expression of teachers, identifying racist comments in the classroom, and tools for leading discussions on controversial subjects. ACRI also participated in a **conference** at the Center for Multiculturalism at the Hebrew University and ran a **workshop** for students from the Department of Communications at Ben Gurion University.
- ACRI ran two **round tables** at Al-Qasemi College on educating values and social involvement, attended by senior lecturers and students.
- In cooperation with the International Red Cross, ACRI held a training session for legal professionals on **international humanitarian law**, as well as workshops at six pre-army academies.

- For the fourth year running, ACRI is holding the **Annual Workshop on Cinema and Human Rights** in cooperation with Tel Aviv Municipality, intended for high-school students studying cinema.
- ACRI continued to provide educators with **guidance and supervision** in development of educational activities and programs on the subject of human rights and the struggle against racism. This includes the first meeting of the **Human Rights Education Forum**, which is intended to serve as a space for learning, training, and activism for educators on issues relating to human rights, democracy, and the struggle against racism. The second meeting of this forum is scheduled for the end of May 2019.



First meeting of Human Rights Education Forum hosted by ACRI

2. Pedagogical Content

- “**The Workshop**” – the website of the Education Department in [Hebrew](#) and [Arabic](#) – includes an extensive database of materials on education to democracy and human rights and education against racism. The website is updated regularly with lesson plans and posts about issues on the public agenda, as well as information about the Department and about conferences and activities in which ACRI is involved.
- ACRI also circulated newsletters in Hebrew and Arabic to thousands of educators. During the reporting period, an average of 785 visitors a month visited the Hebrew version of the Workshop and 1,770 visited the Arabic version.
- The video clip “[This is Israel](#),” which we produced together with the band the BrinX to mark Human Rights Day in 2018, has been viewed over half a million times.

Public Outreach

When claims about criminal conduct of then-President of the Israeli Bar Association (IBA), Efi Nave, ACRI highlighted a less popular, less talked-about aspect in the media — the rights of criminal suspects to privacy. ACRI claimed that if the investigation into his misconduct was based solely on materials obtained illegally from Nave’s cell phone, the investigation should be closed. Our stance made headlines in YNET throughout that night, and was also covered on other news sites, on the radio, and on television. Following the public response, the Israel Police and the State Prosecutor’s Office were forced to provide answers about their conduct and the breach of privacy of Attorney Nave, whose responsibilities as President of the IBA included directly admitting new lawyers and judges.

ACRI's public outreach team works to raise public awareness and create discussion regarding important human rights issues in Israel and the Occupied Territories and to influence public opinion and local policymakers. ACRI promotes policy vis-à-vis the Knesset, the government and other authorities; works with the press and social media platforms; and organizes public campaigns and events.

1. Policy Advocacy:

At the beginning of January 2019, the Knesset entered a recess period covering the lead up to the April 9th elections up until the formation of a new government. Accordingly, ACRI was required to adjust its policy advocacy activities. This field usually includes regular working meetings with Members of Knesset, ministers, and senior civil servants; the submission of position papers on various issues addressed by ACRI and participation in the discussions of various Knesset committees. During the election period, ACRI's emphasis instead was firmly on engaging political candidates for the 21st Knesset with the goal of advancing key human rights and civil liberties issues.

To this end, ACRI prepared [10 position papers \(Hebrew\)](#) on central issues, some in cooperation with partner organizations. In particular, ACRI emphasized the shrinking of democratic space, including the ramifications of this phenomenon for civil society organizations. Other issues included: strengthening the public health system, narrowing gaps in education, workers' rights, a dignified existence and assistance for the impoverished, the abolition of the Nation-State Law, and the advancement of the rights of the Arab minority and of Palestinians in the West Bank. The position papers were circulated to all of the candidates and parties and their relevant staff. ACRI also held meetings and maintained regular contact with candidates and their teams in order to promote these issues. ACRI staff were interviewed on these issues in the context of the elections in various Israeli and foreign media outlets.

The issue of the shrinking democratic space continues to be a key priority in ACRI's work and informed our public outreach strategy during the election campaign and in meetings with candidates. During the reporting period, ACRI addressed specific subjects relating to this issue: the [high court override clause](#) and the importance of defending the Supreme Court and the law enforcement agencies; the ongoing "creeping annexation" of the Occupied Territories through the imposition of Knesset legislation; and [attacks on civil society organizations](#).

During the reporting period, ACRI also participated in conferences (including election gatherings), lectures, meetings, and discussions. Some of the activities were undertaken as part of our membership of various coalitions and forums, including the Health Organizations Forum, the Forum for the War on Poverty, the Forum for the Struggle against the Exclusion of Women, the Forum for the Enforcement of Workers' Rights, and the Democracy Forum.

2. Press and Print Media

During the report period, ACRI was mentioned approximately 150 times on television, radio, newspapers, and websites in Hebrew, Arabic, English and Russian. This figure includes news reports on ACRI's activities as well as ACRI's response to issues on the public agenda. ACRI staff members were interviewed by Israeli and foreign media outlets and published their own opinion articles.

Hebrew-language Media Highlights: Shrinking democratic space; racism and discrimination – the sale of housing to Jews only; a Ministry of Education online lesson portal offered in Hebrew only; the removal of Palestinians from buses at the entrance to Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon; discrimination in budgets for women’s sports; and ACRI’s petition concerning the “McJesus” sculpture at Haifa Museum.

Arabic-language Media Highlights: The “McJesus” petition; the opening of a post office in the Sur Baher (East Jerusalem); ACRI’s petition to open an Arab school in Nazareth Illit; the prosecution of Col. Shomer; and violence against inmates in Ketziot Prison.

English-language Media Highlights: the removal of Palestinians from buses at the entrance to Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon; Israel Bar Association President Efi Nave; Shrinking democratic space; racism and discrimination – racism against Israeli-Ethiopians; the canceled eviction of Holocaust survivors and WWII veterans; “McJesus” art piece at Haifa museum.

3. Internet and Social Media:

ACRI published over 100 posts on its [Hebrew Facebook](#) page, as well as dozens of posts in [Arabic](#) and [English](#). The posts addressed a range of issues at the heart of ACRI’s agenda: racism and discrimination, anti-democratic legislation, attempts to curtail freedom of expression, and social rights.

Facebook in Hebrew Highlights: [suit on behalf of an Ethiopian-Israeli boy who was the victim of racial profiling by the police](#); the [eviction of Holocaust survivors from sheltered housing](#); and a [tour of East Jerusalem](#).

Facebook in Arabic Highlights [Land Day continues – discrimination in planning and land](#); our [campaign against racism](#) (see below); an invitation to the [tour of East Jerusalem](#); and freedom of expression in art – the “McJesus” affair.

Facebook in English Highlights [ACRI’s appeal to the Interior Ministry imploring them not to promote new discriminatory regulations on public parks](#), [the thwarted eviction of Holocaust survivors from sheltered housing](#); [ACRI CEO’s personal post about the Holocaust](#); [the day after Israeli Elections – We’re Still Here](#).

Social Medium	Yearend 2018	Midyear 2019
Facebook Hebrew	87,650 likes	91,790
Facebook Arabic	25,160 likes	25,450
Facebook English	20,000 likes	24,921
Twitter Hebrew	22,700 followers**	20,830
Twitter English	3,840 followers	3,927
Website Hebrew	24,200 unique monthly visitors	11,900 unique monthly visitors*
Website English	1,400 unique monthly visitors	1,300 unique monthly visitors
Website Arabic	1,300 unique monthly visitors	1,640 unique monthly visitors
Newsletter Hebrew	14,700 subscribers	15,010
Newsletter English	3,200 subscribers	3,243

*Transitioned to new website during end of last reporting period, affecting numbers.

** Prior to the Israeli elections, Twitter removed bots (software that performs actions autonomously)

4. Campaigns and Events

“These Elections are Demo-Critical”:

The campaign was run in Hebrew and Arabic and included: A series of Facebook posts addressing various aspects of democracy; a page on our website offering [position papers](#) on selected issues (strengthening the health system, narrowing gaps in education, workers’ rights, the rights of the Arab minority, etc.); and newsletters and video clips.



We invited the public to participate in a survey (in Hebrew and Arabic) to indicate which issues were important to them in the election campaign, and subsequently to contact the candidates about these issues. On the day after the election we posted a [video clip](#) emphasizing ACRI’s commitment to promoting human rights, regardless of the makeup of the incoming government. The clip was viewed approximately 70,000 times in Hebrew, and over 4,000 times in English.

“**But We Don’t Look Racist**”: To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (March 21), ACRI [shared a humorous video clip](#) in Hebrew and Arabic produced by ACRI’s Education Department. The clip was viewed by 55,000 people, of whom around 15,000 watched it in its entire length. ACRI also produced five posters in Arabic featuring comments widely heard in the Israeli-Arab society that can be understood both neutrally and as microaggressions. The posters achieved the desired goal of sparking discussion about racism within Arab society – a subject usually swept under the rug.

In addition to the video clips produced as part of the campaigns, ACRI also produced a [clip](#) in Hebrew and Arabic highlighting the possibility to receive state-funded legal aid in claims of discrimination.

On March 7, 2019, ACRI hosted its annual Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award ceremony. The ceremony was held the day before International Women’s Day, and the event hosted women leaders who discussed the themes of alliances and campaigns, influence and social change, and community building.



ACRI Awards the 2018 Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award

On May 26th, 2019, ACRI held the annual [“Gaga with Ohad Naharin”](#) in Tel Aviv, attended by over 1,000 people.