

Introduction

NIF-in-a-Box provides the tools for you to organize an informative and thought-provoking program at your campus, synagogue, place of work, or just at home with friends.

NIF-in-a-Box currently includes:

- A DVD with six episodes from the *Against All Odds* series focusing on critical issues in Israeli society
- Background information on 5 issues as well as New Israel Fund's activities and successes in the field
- An introduction to NIF
- A facilitator's guide to help you foster a successful discussion among your group
- An evaluation form for your feedback
- Resources for further exploration: websites and articles related to the issues

Please note: the articles included in the package do not necessarily reflect the views of the New Israel Fund but were selected in order to provide information and perspectives on the topics at hand.

How to Use NIF-in-a-Box

You can use these tools in different ways. Here's what we suggest:

1. Invite a group of 10-15 people to watch and discuss one video on the enclosed DVD
2. Facilitate a discussion of the group's reaction to the video (see enclosed Facilitator's Guide)
3. Wrap-Up & Follow-up:
 - Plan your next program using another video in the series
 - Provide further resources to delve deeper into the issue (see enclosed articles and websites)
 - Offer participants ways to connect to NIF (details in Facilitator's Guide)
 - Fill out the evaluation form (available at www.nifinbox.org, paper version enclosed)

Other suggestions:

- Partner with another organization (on campus or elsewhere) to bring the issue "closer-to-home" (e.g. for the Migrant Workers program you can partner with an organization dealing with immigrant rights locally)
- Invite a local figure to help lead the discussion

Outside the Box: The *Against All Odds* Series

Although we currently provide background materials relating to four of the *Against All Odds* episodes, you can use other episodes from the series as well (view them at www.nif.org/againstallodds). Hear stories from fascinating activists such as Hagai El-Ad, director of the Jerusalem Open House LGBT community center, and Israela Goren Garziani, a former NIF Law Fellow and head of the legal department at Yedid, the Association for Community Empowerment.

For more information on the topics discussed in this series, you can explore: New Israel Fund (www.nif.org), The US State Department report on human rights (www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/hrrpt/2005/61690.htm), the Association for Civil Rights in Israel (www.acri.org.il), as well as the websites of organizations addressing these issues.

For questions about NIF-in-a-Box, please contact Ben Mendelsohn at ben@nif.org or 212-613-4400.

“The State of Israel...will be based on freedom, justice and peace...it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or gender...”
Israel's Declaration of Independence, 5 Iyyar 5708 / 14 May 1948

Who We Are

The New Israel Fund is the leading human, civil, and social rights organization in Israel. For the past 28 years, NIF has invested in cutting-edge programs that advance equality and justice for all Israel's citizens. NIF has granted over \$200 million to more than 800 non-profit organizations fighting for economic and social rights, full equality for Arab citizens of Israel, religious pluralism, women's rights, and environmental justice, among other issues. Through litigation, lobbying, and community empowerment, NIF grantees have emerged as the core of Israeli civil society.

What We Do

NIF's primary focus is supporting the creation, development and operations of organizations working to:

- protect the civil and human rights of all Israelis,
- close the social and economic gaps between Israel's diverse communities, and
- promote religious pluralism and tolerance.

To advance these goals, NIF pursues an integrated strategy of grantmaking, organizational development, leadership development, and coalition building.

In 1982, NIF established SHATIL (“seedling” in Hebrew) to provide organizational development and training to Israel's social change organizations. As Israel's preeminent capacity-building center for grassroots organizations, SHATIL empowers its clients to improve their lives and communities and build institutions to promote long-term social change.

NIF's leadership development programs include the Israel-U.S. Civil Liberties Law Program, an internship and study program credited with developing Israel's civil rights bar; the Community Organizing Training Program (run by SHATIL) for Israelis; and the Social Justice Fellowship, a yearlong internship in Israel for students from abroad who seek a career in social action.

Our Accomplishments

The New Israel Fund, its grantees, and SHATIL have strengthened Israel's democracy in ways never imagined when NIF was founded in 1979. At that time, Israel had fewer than 3,000 nonprofits. Today, there are more than 30,000 organizations—many whose first support came from NIF—created by private citizens to fight for civil, economic, and religious rights for all Israelis.

NIF and its grantees have won important legal and legislative victories, increased public awareness of previously unrecognized issues, and enabled vulnerable populations to find their voices and mobilize in collective action.

Today, the New Israel Fund remains at the vanguard of Israel's social justice movement, committed to ensuring justice and equality for *all* Israel's citizens. We hope you will join us in these efforts.

Objective

NIF-in-a-Box was created with two main goals:

- Create awareness and provoke dialogue about critical issues in Israeli society
- Connect participants to the New Israel Fund's mission

If you wish to do so, we also encourage you to use these materials in other ways.

Preparing for the Gathering

- Read over the issue sheet and articles provided to ensure you have an understanding of the issue.
- Make copies of the enclosed issue sheets for the participants in your group. (You can also provide them with copies of the enclosed articles for further reading.)
- Read through the discussion questions and decide which you want to use for your group.

Facilitator Roles

As a facilitator, your goal is to help the participants have an informative and meaningful discussion. To achieve this, consider doing the following:

- Welcome participants and explain the format of the event (we will read the materials, watch the video together and then have a discussion). Include a rough timeline (e.g. the video is approximately 20 minutes, after which we will have a discussion for 30 minutes) and manage that timeline.
- Articulate the purpose and propose norms/guidelines to the group (see below). Your purpose may be different than what we've suggested here.
- Initiate and facilitate a dialogue about the video. You may want to refer to the enclosed questions, or use your own questions.
- Clarify confusing points by restating individual comments and confirming that the whole group has heard and understood them (e.g., "If I understand you correctly, your view is that, is that right?").
- Make sure that everyone feels included and free to voice his/her opinion. Balance the "floor time" between those who have a lot to say and the more quiet participants.
- Wrap up and briefly summarize the conversation at the end.
- Discuss opportunities for follow up/next steps. This may include scheduling another dialogue session using a different video, handing out copies of the articles provided, explaining how to connect with NIF, directing the group to websites for further information, and completing the survey to help us improve NIF-in-a-Box.

Proposed Norms/Guidelines

1. Participants should listen with curiosity—ask questions to expand their view before offering their [opposing] view.
2. Participants should express their perspectives in terms of how a situation impacts them, instead of labeling it. (e.g., "I [strongly] agree/disagree with ..." instead of "S/he is right/wrong")
3. Participants should not interrupt one another.
4. Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion.

5. Everyone's voice should be heard (don't monopolize the conversation).
6. The facilitator reserves the right to redirect the conversation.

Facilitator Tips

- You are not expected to be the expert on every topic. If a participant has a question you cannot answer using the background materials provided, let the group know that you'll look into the answer, and contact us for more information.
- Ask open-ended questions that stimulate discussion. Some examples include: "What is it like for you to..."; "How do you see this point?"; "Can you describe more fully..."
- Create a balanced conversation by ensuring that everyone in the group has a chance to speak. Acknowledge the talkative members of the group, thanking them for their contributions, and ask them to make room for quieter members to voice their questions.
- Consider acknowledging the "elephant in the room" by stating the unstated. This may make for a controversial but lively discussion.
- It's okay to share your personal opinion as long as you let the group know that it's your own and encourage others to speak.

Ways for You and the Group to Connect to NIF

- Fill out the NIF-in-a-Box evaluation form (either online at www.nifinabox.org or using the sheet provided) and let us know how the dialogue went and how the program could be improved.
- Sign up to receive our weekly newsletter, NIF News: www.nif.org/NIFnews. If you live in New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, south Florida, or Washington DC, you can also sign up to receive updates about NIF events in these areas.
- Learn more about NIF's activities on our website, www.nif.org, and consider making a donation to support our work.

Sample Timeline

- 7:00 pm – Group gathers, schmooze time
- 7:30 pm – Welcome, state plan, goals and timeline for the evening.
- 7:35 pm – Watch video
- 8:00 pm – The discussion:
 - Prior to the discussion, state the proposed norms and guidelines to the group.
 - Then start the discussion by either opening the floor to any reactions to the video, or by asking one of the proposed questions.
 - Facilitate the discussion as needed and helpful, asking additional questions as appropriate.
- 8:45 pm – Wrap up:
 - Ask for one last comment before wrapping up.
 - Wrap up the conversation and thank the group for their participation.
 - Propose / Discuss next steps (scheduling next event, learning more about the topic, connecting with NIF).
 - Ask participants to fill out the survey (and fill out the survey yourself).
- After the event: send out an email to the participants thanking them, stating next steps, reminding them to fill out the survey at www.nifinabox.org, and directing them to the NIF website www.nif.org/NIFnews if they wish to receive the NIF newsletter and/or receive invitations to events.

NIF-in-a-Box Evaluation Form

New Israel Fund
הקן החדשה לישראל

YOU CAN ALSO FILL OUT THIS SURVEY ONLINE AT www.nifinabox.org

**If you fill out the form on paper, please fax it to 212-714-2153 or mail it to:
New Israel Fund, 330 Seventh Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, NY 10001-5010**

Name (optional) _____

1. How did you hear about NIF-in-a-Box?

NIF email UPZ email NIF website Friend Other: _____

2. Where was the NIF-in-a-Box program that you participated in held?

college campus synagogue private home Other: _____

3. Please list the city and state where the program was held, and who the organizer was.

4. Please rate the following on a scale of 1 to 5:

1	2	3	4	5
Excellent	Good	Fair	Not good	Poor

The NIF-in-a-Box program overall

1 2 3 4 5

Against All Odds video

1 2 3 4 5

Background materials

1 2 3 4 5

Discussion questions

1 2 3 4 5

Follow-up resources

1 2 3 4 5

5. Please note which program you participated in:

Migrant Workers Ethiopian Integration Human Rights Arab Israelis Other _____

6. How familiar were you with the issues discussed?

7. Did the program provide you with a good understanding of the issue?

8. Please comment on the quality and nature of the discussion.

9. What did you like most about the program?

10. What did you like least about the program?

11. In what way(s) could the program be improved?

12. Would you attend a future NIF-in-a-Box program? What topic(s) would you like to see addressed?

NIF YEAR-ROUND

13. Where do you live? _____

14. Are you interested in attending other NIF programs? Yes Maybe No

15. Are you interested in getting involved with NIF by:

- Volunteering at NIF events, phonathons etc.
- Contributing to NIF's blog
- Hosting an NIF-run event in your home/office (Please note capacity)
- Hosting an NIF-in-a-Box program yourself
- Staying informed through the NIF News, a weekly email newsletter (please include your email if so)
- Other: _____

FOR FACILITATORS ONLY

16. Please rate the following on a scale from 1 to 5 in terms of how well they worked for your event.

1	2	3	4	5
Excellent	Good	Fair	Not good	Poor

Against All Odds video

1 2 3 4 5

Background materials

1 2 3 4 5

Discussion questions

1 2 3 4 5

Follow-up resources

1 2 3 4 5

Facilitator's guide

1 2 3 4 5

17. Please note which program you facilitated:

Migrant Workers Ethiopian Integration Human Rights Arab Israelis Other _____

19. Overall, did you find the background materials adequate for your facilitation needs?

20. What other materials might have been helpful?

21. Other comments on how to improve the facilitator's tools for NIF-in-a-Box:
