



About Wepower

Established in 2000, WePower is a non-profit, non-partisan Israeli NGO, promoting women's leadership, gender integration and equality at all levels of Israeli society. In May 2017 WePower was granted consultative status by the United Nations in matters relating to women's leadership.

WePower proactively focuses on advancing women to top influential positions at the highest levels of decision-making and elected offices, thus propelling social change leading to an equal, civil society.

Gender Equality In Decision - Making Positions.

- 1** Locating, Training and Networking
 - 2** Legislation
 - 3** Raising Awareness
- 



Our Programs

The “Women for Future Leadership” program

This is WePower’s ongoing flagship program which has already operated in more than 45 locations around Israel. This program provides unique training, empowerment and leadership insight for local potential women leaders.

The “Advanced Management Training” program

WePower, in partnership with Bar-Ilan University’s Center of Continuing Education, operates “The Advanced Management Training Program” for women in the public and political sector. This unique program is an advanced module of WePower’s College program and it includes lectures of prime experts in management, finance, legal and public issues.

The “Follow On Program”

This program is designed for graduates of WePower’s “Women for future leadership” programs. It allows participants to consult with each other and share leadership dilemmas and tools in order to narrow the gender gap in their municipalities.



Our Programs

“Atidot” program

WePower operates the “Atidot” program in cooperation with a variety of colleges in Israel. The two semesters’ program for young women aims to reduce the ‘maturing’ period of the young women towards political participation and their integration into public activity and local government at an early stage of their career, as a possible basis for future involvement in national politics, as members of the Knesset.

The College for Politics

The program for women’s political training will provide tools and specific skills to prepare women for competing in municipal elections and future Knesset elections. This program is for council members interested in re-election or being elected mayor, for women interested in entering the local political arena for the first time, and for women interested in running for various public positions. The program was inaugurated before the 2013 elections, and about 60% of its participants ran for elections. The program is based on WePower’s familiarity with the needs and challenges facing women interested in competing in the coming elections, with expert professionals who supply training on various topics.



Our Programs

Your Voice Matters Program

A program aimed at Jewish Orthodox and Arab women, to give them the tools and inspire them to get active in politics and run for public office in their communities. The program gives tools to women from lower economic backgrounds and from societies which marginalize women, to be heard, be active and activists in their community, and to become skilled and run for positions in the future.

College for Elected Women Council Members

WePower's novel College for Elected Women Council Members initiative is targeted on the new first-time elected council women and provides them with the tool box, know-how and support to effectively serve a meaningful and successful term in office as Council members who will promote gender-equality in the public arena.



Our Programs

Gender Conscious Management Program

This is a program intended for the local authorities' management, with the purpose of introducing gender oriented world perceptions to them into management, together with the provision of tools on how to manage the various divisions in their entities, considering an equal human and gender-conscious society.

Wepower Activities



The Women for Future Leadership Program

In early November 2019, the Women for Future Leadership program opened in Beit She'an, a city in northern Israel. **Beit She'an has 13 council members, only one of whom is a woman (7.6%),** making our work there particularly important. The program opened with 23 participants under the guidance of Yael Abada, formerly a counselor in Haifa. There were 10 sessions.



Executive Management Training for Professional Women

As part of the Executive Management for Women in High-Tech, Business and The Public Sector.

21 women participated in the program and acquired management and modeling tools from inspiring female senior managers in local industry and the public sector.



Participation in meetings of the United Nations

2017- csw61: Side event :“The Accelerator for Political and Public Rural Women Leadership: From Social Involvement to Ad-Hoc Coalitions”. Written Statement: <https://undocs.org/E/CN.6/2018/NGO/149> Oral Intervention:“innovative data approaches for measuring progress on gender equality and women empowerment”

2018 - csw62: Written Statement: “Ad-Hoc Coalition to Advance Women Candidates in Israel’s October 30th 2018 Municipal Elections - Taking the Initiative, Providing Access to Services and Working Effectively to Narrow the Gender Gap in Political Leadership” Oral Intervention request:“High-level interactive dialogue among Ministers on the priority theme: ‘Building alliances for social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”

2019 - csw63: Written Statement:“WePower’s as accelerator for gender equality in the Israeli public and political arena”



Programs held in the last years

**Each program
has about 25
participants**

- Gender-conscious management program, proposed by the Lev Hasharon Regional
- Lecture “Being a Mixed Resident in the Council” at the Bnei Shimon Regional Council
- “This Council in My Own” and gender-conscious management programs, in the Upper Galilee Regional Council
- Accompanying the Women’s Forum in the Mevot HaHermon Regional Council
- Accompanying the Women’s Forum in the Lower Galilee Regional Council
- Community Leadership Program for Rehovot Municipality
- Accompanying the Organizations Forum in Be’er Sheva for the Be’er Sheva Municipality
- Accompanying the Women’s Forum in the Asher Regional Council

Women's Professional Networks

WePower initiated the first Women's Regional Network in southern Israel, a model for women's networking that will be replicated in the North and Center in the future.

150 women have already signed up as network members, and are overseen by the 15 members of the Steering Committee.

The Women's Forum

The Women's Forum program opened in Pardes Hanna-Karkur, and is soon to open in Binyamina. As part of its investment in promoting women's participation in the political sphere, WePower oversees these Forums in order to instill a gender-sensitive perspective in the work of the local council and to promote the development of a gender-sensitive workplan. To do so, we established a women's forum with a gendered approach. The program includes 10 meetings.

Your Voice Matters

The program targets women from Israel's social periphery to create comprehensive women's leadership that will advance social issues. The program was offered to women from the Halisa Neighborhood in Haifa, and later, an additional group was opened together with Givat Haviva.



The Atidot Program

The program identifies and trains young girls and women (ages 16-20) who show leadership potential and would like to acquire the tools needed to reach a position or fulfill a role of leadership and influence in their communities. The program's syllabus includes gender studies, leadership training, public policy research and academic theories, as well as individual leadership development and shadow-mentoring. Activities took place in two locations in the Negev (southern region): at the Ort High School for girls aged 15-16 in Arad, and the in pre-military preparatory program for girls - Malach Harez at the Dead Sea.

Conferences and Networking Events:

Over the past year we worked with women council members, offering them the support, networking and knowledge they need in order to fulfill their roles effectively and meaningfully.

There was a total of 130 women council members in the three conventions.



Women Creating Social Change:

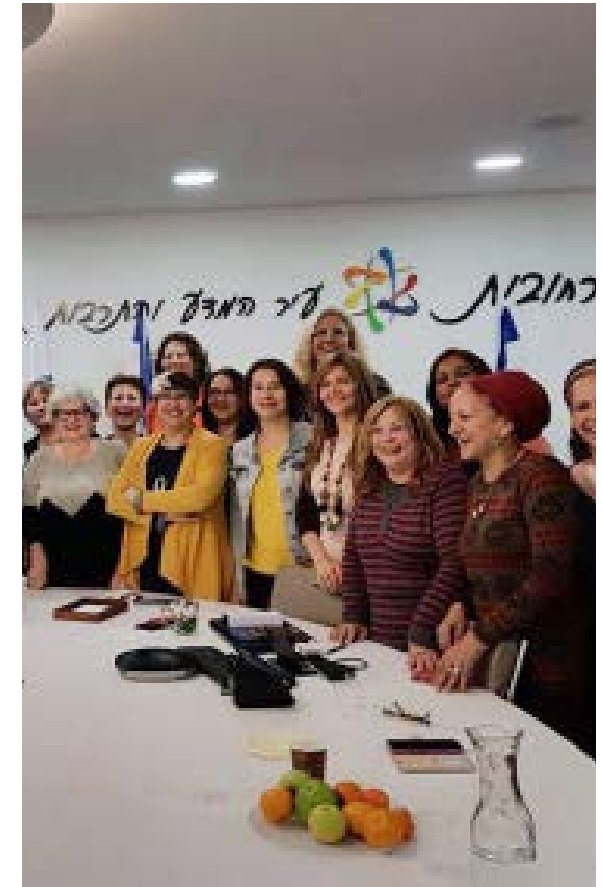
A conference held in Givat Haviva focused on five key issues in the daily life of women in Israel: violence against women, gender equality, gender education, representation among decision-makers and exclusion. The organization's CEO chaired a session on representation together with Maysem Jaljuli, Chairman of NA'AMAT Southern Triangle Region. In addition, we conducted two large training and networking conferences for elected council members in Beer Sheva (see photo) and Carmiel that focused on citizen engagement, and hosted professionals in the field.

Gender-Index in the Local Councils

WePower published updated data on the women's representation in the political arena, showing **women to be only 17.6% in local councils, 5.4% among heads of local councils, 21% of directors in senior statutory positions, and 38% in local corporation directorates.**

The Incubator for Council Members and Women Mayors Project

The project was set to begin in March 2020, with the first program to take place in Northern Israel. With the course set to begin, the end of February saw the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in Israel, and with it a gradual stop of in-person activities up until March, when official lockdowns were put into effect. As a result, the program was put on temporary hold.



Elections in Israel

Prior to two national elections that took place over the current reporting period we petitioned for increased numbers of women in party rosters among senior politicians and conducted an online campaign to include women at the negotiating table, where we have had some success.

WePower's new Digital Magazine

which brings together issues that concern women in the public sphere, as well as highlighting WePower's activities and initiatives. The magazine includes articles discussing crisis management, initiatives for at-risk populations, municipalities in time of emergency, challenges for small businesses and many more topics. The Digital Magazine will be published every two months.



Online Lecture Series:

our seven online Zoom lectures - on a range of topics - had a substantial number of viewers during March and April and was offered to potential participants of the Incubator project, WePower alumni, and participants of other programs.

Wide-Spread Campaign calling for the equal engagement of women

WePower conducted a Wide-Spread Campaign calling for the equal engagement of women in various 'exit strategy' committees and in the new government. Thanks to our campaign and that of other feminist organizations, a new committee has recently been established in order to deal with a possible second wave of COVID-19. The committee is headed by a woman and includes nine women among its thirteen members. This committee was formed following a ruling by the Supreme Court in response to a petition submitted by WePower and other organizations.



The Women's Council for Civil Security

The creation of a coalition of feminist organizations and activists titled **The Women's Council for Civil Security**, already numbering some 150 women. The coalition sounds a gendered voice at the highest echelons of Israeli government, and supports our newly formed coalition of feminist organizations and individuals as they endorse gender-sensitive decision making and work in unison with parliamentary committees to impact policy and legislative initiatives.



US Embassy Lecture Series

The US Embassy conducts a lecture series on women in politics. WePower's CEO, Dr. Mazal Shaul, was invited to moderate a meeting with Ms. Sussanah Wellford, CEO of Running Start, that promotes the participation of young women in high school and college in US politics.



'Mekomiot South' project

As part of our College for Politics program, we are very pleased with the success of our **'Mekomiot South' project** that has built a network of women in Southern Israel while providing them with training in preparation for the local elections to be held in 2023.

To assist us in recruiting women to the network we established a Steering Committee comprised of women from various positions of influence in the political and public sectors, including current council members and mayors. The Committee helped us identify potential candidates and in two weeks **we recruited some 200 women.**



We conducted four large-scale conferences:

Conference #1 - Launch

On July 7th, MP Michael Biton, Head of Yoav Regional Council Dr. Mati Tzarfati-Harkabi, and Deputy Mayor of Beer Sheva Dr. Heftzi Zohar spoke before participants. In addition, the Local Council Gender Index was discussed and participants mingled with one another.

Conference #2 - Networking

On August 8th, participants discussed networking in the time of COVID, as well as on and beyond the computer screen. Head of the Yeruham Regional Council, Ms. Tal Ohana gave an inspiring presentation.

Conference #3 - Impacting the Municipal Arena and Acquiring Political Clout

Dr. Mazal Shaul, WePower's CEO, oversaw the conference. Participants divided themselves into chat rooms to discuss lecture materials.

Conference #4 - The Municipal Arena and its Challenges

Our guest lecturers included Ms. Sharon Mark, deputy mayor of Ashdod and chairwoman of the 'Leviot' party, and Ms. Nira Shpek, activist and council member candidate in the Sha'ar HaNegev regional council.

We divided participants into five subgroups based on their location and the structure of their local governance (municipality or regional council). Work in the subgroups focused on a range of topics including education, women's empowerment and professional frameworks.

רשת אלימות

מאז ומתמיד
נשים הובילו מהפכות,
אז בואי, קומי
ותעשי - תובילי
את עצמך
לעמדת מפתח
בעיר שלך!

העולם
לא יכול להתקיים
בלי נשים,
גם החלטות
לא יכולות
להתקבל
בלי נשים,
את הקול שלך
את תשמיעי

מור דקל,
יו"ר העמותה הישראלית
למען הילד בגיל הרך,
יועצת ראש עיריית פ"ת לגיל הרך

פידא שחאדה,
חברת מועצת עיריית לוד, מובילה תנועה
מקומית לשינויי חברתי ונגד אלימות
פשיעה בחברה הערבית בלוד

Notable achievements WePower

- Since 2017, Wepower has been serving as an advisory body to the UN on gender equality
- Promoted three bills on gender representation and equality in Israel.
- Six alumni of WePower serve in the 24th Knesset as Knesset members.
- Twenty alumni of the association ran for mayoral positions in the 2018 municipal elections.
- Establishment of a national training system for the advancement of women in public and political positions
- Over 100 training and study cycles with thousands of participants.
- 10 times the number of women in key positions in local councils today.
- Approximately 25% of our graduates are ran/running for political positions.

Activities in the near future 2022-2023:

College for Politics

Plan for 2022: 2 programs

Trains local women activists who plan to run for council or mayoral positions in the 2023 municipal elections. The program enhances and promotes women's participation in the public arena and in the electoral process by providing them with leadership tools, know-how and networking, and encouraging their participation in the electoral process.

Mayor's Training Program

A designated training for incumbent mayors which includes relevant information, study materials and networking.



Influence Network in Arab societ

a women's network for women in Arab society. This program is similar to the general society's program, but also includes relevant content for Arab society.

Religious Councils

The program deals with the integration of religious women in activities in the public sphere and in the religious councils in Israel, regardless of political, sectoral or sociological affiliation.



Women for Future Leadership

Plan for 2022: 20 programs

Trains local activist women and builds leadership skills among women so that they may advance gender parity in political and civil life and engage in political and social activism on the local level.

Senior Management Program

Plan for 2022: 4 programs

Strengthens practical management tools and skills for senior women managers.

Your Voice Matters

Plan for 2022: 5 programs

Identifies and trains a carefully selected group of talented young women with leadership potential, who want to make a difference in peripheral and rural regions. Program participants include a broad spectrum of Israeli society - Bedouin, Arab, Druze and Jewish secular and Orthodox women.

The Women's' Network

Plan for 2022: 1000 women

Creates three local regional networks in order to create a community of women that support and encourage one another to run for public office in the 2023 local elections.

Awareness-Raising

**Plan for 2022:
3 regional networks**

Conduct a range of online activities to promote public awareness of gender-related issues and of women's leadership. Conferences, online campaigns, research and publication of background on women leaders around the world, public surveys

