

# ACTIVITY REPORT



2010

## Foreword

Dear Friends,

We are proud to present you with New Profile's annual activity report for 2010. The following pages contain the feminist and anti-militarist activities our movement has undertaken last year to bring Israeli society closer to the ideal of a truly civil, demilitarized, society.

An earlier draft of this foreword was written in a happy key, as the graduates of New Profile's youth groups and summer camps, together with many of our activists and hundreds of thousands of others, were swept into a protest movement that is a true manifestation of civil society. More than 300,000 people who gathered for one of the major demonstrations in Tel-Aviv and listened to a series of speakers, most of them women, who demanded, among other things, that the government stop investing ever more resources in war and in the military and claimed that true security can only be reached through strengthening education, public health and welfare services.

This euphoria has perhaps weakened somewhat since. The summer ended, and its end signaled the return of bad news: protesters burned alive in Egypt, Syrian citizens being murdered every day, and here, in Israel, a growing wave of oppressive bills and laws threatens to finally destroy the brittle remains of democracy in Israel. And among those whom this anti-democratic wave targets, New Profile has a place of honor. Thus, Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, Avigdor Lieberman, in several media appearances, referred to New Profile, alongside other Israeli organizations, as a "terrorist accomplice". The criticism we keep facing indicates New Profile's success in forging a kind of discourse that challenges the deepest conceptions Israeli society nurtures.

But let us put aside current affairs and go back in time to the year this report covers. 2010 was a challenging year for New Profile, a year in which our movement recovered from the turbulent events of the previous year, including the criminal probe against us (which of course ended without charges being pressed) and the consequences of the 2008/9 assault on Gaza and of the subsequently published Goldstone Report. New Profile also faced inner structural changes in this year. This was a year of adapting to change and returning to normal.

As always, New Profile remained a unique place for those who question, who doubt and who are curious, of any age, gender, ethnicity and religion. New Profile is glad to continue discussion and cooperation with researchers, with the local and global media, with activists and with ordinary people. We are happy to find every new allies and supporters everywhere we look.

We would like to use this opportunity to thank you for reading these words and for showing support. Everything New Profile is doing would be lost and would have become meaningless without your support and attention.

New Profile activists, December 2011.

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## Supporting refusal

As an anti-militarist movement, New Profile does its best to support those who decide to refuse, avoid, or prematurely terminate their military service and thus to uphold their moral values. Here are some of the ways in which we are doing this.

### The counseling network

The broad variety of people and stories encountered by the volunteers in New Profile's counseling network, providing practical information and support to people wishing to avoid military service, serves well to illustrate a line in Erich Kästner's poem, "Knowest thou the land where cannons bloom": "There, no one a civilian is born". We are approached by young conscientious objectors, mostly still in high school, as well as by women and men in their twenties and thirties called up for reserves. In 2010 we also saw a considerable increase in the number of cases of former Israelis, whose children reach the age of 18 and are required to enlist in the Israeli military despite living abroad.

The twenty volunteers, making up the counseling network, together with two part-time coordinators, help many people who cannot become soldiers. "My mother is ill and there is no one else to take care of my family" is the sort of sentence we often encounter in our conversations with people who approach us. We feel that helping a person who does not wish to serve a country that has neglected her is just as important as aiding an imprisoned conscientious objector, like, for example, Ajuad Zidan, whom our counseling network, together with our legal aid project, has supported through seven prison terms this year.

It is safe to say that for all these people, the counseling network was not only a last resort, but the only resort they had when looking for information, guidance and understanding. New Profile's counseling network has accumulated the knowledge it possesses over a decade of work. Each person we support and tells us her or his own story thus also shows us how to help others. Each person, who takes the difficult decision not to be a soldier, for whatever reason, challenges the would-be consensus around conscription in Israeli society, and therefore is our ally.

Most of those, who volunteer in New Profile's counseling network, received help from the network in the past. In 2010 the network's coordinators held four training meetings for new counselors, in which experienced counselors explain the network's working methods and share basic information about the legal and procedural options that a person wishing to refuse or avoid conscription has at her disposal. The network also held three meetings for experienced counselors. These meetings focus less on passing on information, and more on sharing hardships and achievements, and supporting each other.

New Profile's counseling network receives calls for help by e-mail and to our phone hotline; both are regularly checked by a volunteer. Many who seek our advice prefer the anonymity offered by our internet forum, where answers are provided instantly by the network's counselors. Many others choose not to contact us directly but use the information provided on the network's website.

About 450 people contacted the counseling network via e-mail or phone in 2010. We estimate that about 1,000 more people received assistance at our forum. The number of those who contacted our counselors personally or used the information given on the network's website without contacting us is unknown, but we estimate that some 2,000 people have used the counseling network's services in 2010.

## **Legal aid network**

New Profile's Legal aid network is an important component in our work to support refusers. Ran by New Profile activists, the legal aid network involves several lawyers and law firms, and offers legal counseling and support for refusers and their families. It is one of New Profile's most expensive activities and is also assigned a high priority in our work.

An important function of the legal aid network is to coordinate lawyer visits to refusers in prison (a visit by a lawyer is sometimes the only reliable way an inmate in an Israeli military prison can have contact with the outside world), in addition to preliminary consultation and various kind of legal intervention. The legal aid network also maintains regular contact with prisoners' families, since we often find that family members of imprisoned refusers are no less stressed about this than the prisoners themselves.

In 2010 the legal aid network supported about twenty refusers, some of whom required professional legal counseling and intervention. In total, our lawyers visited twelve imprisoned refusers a total of seventeen times.

Other kinds of legal aid the network provides consist mainly of appeals to various military exemption and discharge committees, including the so-called "Conscience Committee", the Incompatibility Committee and the Committee for Exemption Due to Religious Family Lifestyle. In 2010, our lawyers conducted legal correspondence on behalf of nine men and women, which also included appeals to military prison authorities and to the Military Attorney General on cases of prisoner mistreatment.

As mentioned in our previous report, New Profile supports the case of Jonathan Shapira, who was dismissed from his work as a civilian helicopter pilot after publicly signing a declaration of refusal to fly bombing missions over Gaza as part of his reserves military service. Jonathan Shapira sued his former employer, but lost the case. An appeal has been submitted, and the first hearing is currently scheduled to May 2012.

In October 2010, there was a significant change in the Legal Aid Network as, after several successful years as the coordinator of the network, Ruti Divon finished her term as legal aid network coordinator and Yotam Shlomo was chosen to replace her.

## **Alerts on imprisoned conscientious objectors**

The act of refusing to perform military service loses much of its meaning if performed in a vacuum, if it is not made public and inspires others to make their own moral decisions. To bring the acts of conscientious to the outside world and to organize support for them, New Profile issues alerts that are posted on our website and distributed through mailing lists, our own and others'. These alerts, containing some personal information about the objector, her refusal statement, information about her imprisonment and a list of addresses to which supporters are encouraged to write in protest, are issued once a conscientious objector is taken to prison.

At New Profile's general meetings (see below), we often write postcards with support messages to the imprisoned objectors, which are then brought to the prisoners by our lawyers or by their family members during visits. These postcards join many letters of support that are sent to imprisoned objectors in Israel following the alerts that New Profile distributes.

## Learning together

As Janusz Korczak once wrote, “To mend the world means: to reform education”. True dialogue begins with people learning about, from and with one another. These beliefs stand at the core of the following New Profile projects.

### The youth groups

New Profile’s youth groups are a safe space for dialogue and learning for adolescents, which stands as an alternative to the militarized youth movements that are common in Israel.

Youth groups are mostly active in the course of the school year. Thus, 2010 covers parts of two years of youth groups activity. Continuing from 2009 and until July 2010, there were four youth groups meeting regularly: local groups in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa and a theater group that met in Jaffa. These groups took a break over the summer holidays and in September the two youth group project coordinators started locating participant for the new groups. This process includes promoting the groups in various ways, e.g. on New Profile’s website, by contacting people who were in touch with New Profile earlier in the year, etc. In the 2010–2011 school year, there were three active youth groups, in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa. Attempts to open a fourth group did not bear fruit.

All in all, about forty young Israelis took part in New Profile’s youth group activities in 2010. Eleven facilitators worked in the youth group project in the course of the 2009–2010 school year, most of them had been facilitators in previous years, and some have also been participants in New Profile’s youth groups or summer camps in the more distant past. Six facilitators were part of the project in the 2010–2011 school year. The youth group project coordinators organized and facilitated seven training and mutual learning meetings between the group facilitators in 2010.

In 2010 the youth groups project team also worked on updating materials related to the project posted on New Profile’s website, which is currently being revamped (see under *New Profile’s website*).

### The alternative summer camp for youth

Continuing a five year-long tradition, New Profile’s sixth Alternative Summer Camp for Youth took place in end of July at the “Adamama” ecological farm, located in the village of Nir Moshe in the south of Israel. Some 65 participants from all over Israel, all aged 15-19, came to the camp.

As in previous years, the camp was organized by a non-hierarchic team of experienced activists and educators, who started working on it in February. Though planned to be a week long experience the camp was shortened in the last minute to a two day seminar – the result of a bureaucratic entanglement which prevented us from receiving all the necessary permits. Without permits, the week-long camp could not have been covered by the insurance company, but a two day seminar could, and so we sadly informed participants of the change and held a shorter and more condensed schedule than planned.

Most of the content of the summer camp was made up of workshops conducted by guest speakers and facilitators on various issues such as education, the economy, the place of militarism in Israeli society and gender and sexuality. Other subjects that were touched upon were the Israeli occupation of Palestine, the environment, and migrant workers and refugees in Israel. At any given point in time, other than during the breaks and the vegan meals, three simultaneous workshops would take place, allowing

the participants a wide choice. The leading educational concept of the workshops was promoting critical thinking and social and political awareness of the subjects at hand, also encouraging participants to share their own knowledge and experience.

In the evening, different and more “entertaining” workshops were offered, such as a drumming session (with “Kasamba” – an activist drummers band), a creative writing workshop, and DIY activities such as T-shirt painting. In another special activity, the participants were offered to create their own workshops and offer them to others.

Between workshops, participants met three times a day in their smaller and more intimate “home groups”, facilitated by two team members. The home groups were a place to talk over feelings and thoughts which arose during the workshops, and, as always, proved to be crucial for the participants’ feeling of belonging.

Despite the slight disappointment at having to shorten the camp from six to two days, both the team and the participants had a wonderful time and an enriching experience. Many of the participants joined NP youth groups in the following school year, while others stayed in touch with their group guides, and became otherwise politically involved.



Participants at the 2010 Alternative Summer Camp for Youth

### **“Study War No More...” – New Profile’s exhibition**

As Israeli citizens, we are surrounded by military verbal and visual messages. From the day we are born, from kindergarten to adulthood, in almost any kind of written or graphic material, in any text, in education, in culture, recreational facilities, even tourist sites, everywhere the military and militarism are present. New Profile’s exhibition is a visual illustration of the complex ways in which a militarized society creates a war-oriented mindset, a mindset that cannot even imagine a state of peace.

The exhibition was originally created in 2001 for an international conference on militarism in education which New Profile has initiated and co-organized with the School of Education and the Department of Sociology and Anthropology in the

Hebrew University of Jerusalem and with the Center for Critical Pedagogy in the Kibbutzim College of Education. In the past ten years, in which it has been updated and enriched, the exhibition has been displayed at a long list of venues all over Israel, and has been used as an ice-breaker and a reference point for dozens of workshops facilitated by New Profile members over the years. Every time we show pictures from this exhibition we reconfirm the cliché that a picture is worth a thousand words.

Since 2009, a short version of the exhibition with English notes in a digital format is available on our website: <http://www.newprofile.org/english/?p=294>.

In 2010 New Profile's exhibition, in full or in part, was shown among other places, in several small cities in California, USA, at a workshop given in the *Emek Izreel* Academic College, at a learning exchange between activists in Acre, at the Alternative Summer Camp for Youth, and in many other locations.



New Profile's exhibition on display at the Alternative Summer Camp for Youth

## Lectures and workshops

As every year, in 2010 New Profile offered workshops and lectures to a wide spectrum of audiences all over Israel. The workshops and lectures are aimed both at those who share our ideas and beliefs and wish to continue the dialogue with us, and as a first encounter for those who do not agree with us at all.

We believe that by creating a safe zone for dialogue about feminism and militarism can lead to change, knowing these subjects are almost never open to discussion among Israelis. As mentioned also in our previous annual report, this belief was vindicated, after a fashion, in early 2010, when a short presentation given by a New Profile activist to a group of Israeli high school students led the Israeli Minister of Education, Gideon Sa'ar, to ban New Profile from entering Israeli schools (thus making New Profile, to the best of our knowledge, the only organization to ever be officially banned from entering schools in Israel). If a short presentation is so threatening to a man like Sa'ar, then it must be more powerful than we thought.

Most of New Profile's workshops and lectures are developed and facilitated by a team of two New Profile activists. This reflects the principle that the right to speak for New Profile should always be distributed among all our activists, and that New Profile work should preferably be done jointly. In 2010 New Profile was invited to conduct workshops or give lectures to students in several colleges in Israel, in youth seminars, in a scouts gathering, to delegations of activists from other organizations in Israel and abroad, and even to a so-called "pre-enlistment school" (a year-long course for high school graduates devised as a sort of preparation for military service, joining which also grants students a deferral of conscription).

In each of these places we were able to foster meaningful discussion among members of our audience. Thus, after the workshop given to the scouts, some of the young women in the group approached our activist and started a vivid discussion of the status of women within their group of scouts. After the lecture given at the "pre-enlistment school", one of the young people in the audience approached us, informed us that he decided to become a conscientious objector to military service, and asked us about the process he was to face. Such events fill our hearts with pride.

### **Workshops for New Profile members**

Since its first days, New Profile used workshops and learning gatherings as a way for our activists to learn from each other and develop as individuals but also as a way to improve our work as a group, as an organization.

In 2010, we created a new kind of workshop. Last year, one of New Profile's activists was sexually harassed by her boss while working in an organization that we have cooperated with in various ways. Our friend tried to confront her boss, but was offensively ignored. She asked her coworkers to support her, but to no avail. Eventually she came to understand that no one in the organization is willing to treat this as an event of sexual harassment. As a result, she decided to resign. After her resignation the board refused to give her the severance package she deserved.

Realizing one of us was hurt emotionally, economically and socially for her decision not to accept offensive behavior from her employer, we decided first to freeze any collaboration we had with that organization. It took us some time to decide what to do next. After some deliberation, we came to realize that there is no reason to believe that in a male-dominated society sexual harassment is completely avoidable in any environment, and that includes organizations working for human rights and social change. New Profile decided to create a series of workshops open to members of any organization in our political milieu, including the one where the sexual harassment case took place, to try to avoid this happening again, and to find better ways of responding to sexual harassment in our own back yard, as it were. We were not very much surprised to learn that the organization in question rejected our invitation. The workshops on sexual harassment took place nevertheless, as an internal study group for our own activists, open also to any other activists who wish to join in. The workshops themselves started already in 2011, and had ten to fifteen participants each.

### **Organizational Structure**

New Profile's work is guided by a continuous effort to deconstruct internal hierarchies, to decentralize power and to avoid the stratification of activists into different status groups – in short, New Profile is guided by feminist organizational principles. Maintaining these commitments requires constant effort and constant awareness of the ways in which we, New Profile activists, interact with one another as individuals and

as a group. 2010 was a year in which this commitment was put to the test, especially around the issue of paid work: some of New Profile's activists are employed and receive payment, while others volunteer without financial remuneration. Trying to map the power relations created by this situation was a central concern for New Profile, on the organizational level, in 2010.

## **The debate around salaried work in New Profile**

As mentioned in our 2009 activity report, the issue of formalizing the status of New Profile's paid workers came up for discussion in the latter half of 2009. It has already been the case since 2006 that the coordinators of three of New Profile's major projects – the legal aid network, the counseling network and the youth groups – received payment for their work. However, New Profile considered all payment for work to activists to be payment for one-off projects, remuneration that is meant to enable activists to engage more intensively with what was still essentially considered voluntary work, rather than salaried work in the full sense of the word. As a result, payment for project work was also cash only, and did not include any social benefits – a situation that became increasingly problematic as the paid work in New Profile has gradually become of a more permanent character.

The first product of the discussion was a decision, made effective since January 2010, to move from project-based payment to full-fledged legal employment of New Profile employees, with all implied social benefits. So long as New Profile in fact employs people to do work, it was decided, it is our moral duty to strive to be maximally ethical employers. On the other hand, it was also decided that no person is to be consecutively employed by New Profile for more than two years. Adhering thus to the principle of rotation also allows us to maintain our commitment to decentralizing power within the organization.

This decision, however, did not fully settle the complex issues at stake. Having dealt with the issue of New Profile's relations, as an organization, with its employee activists, the nature of the relationships between paid work and workers and voluntary work and workers in New Profile remained to be addressed. This required a process that was longer and more difficult. As part of this process New Profile has also conducted an internal weekend workshop with the aid of the SIT (Systematic Inventive Thinking) company. In the course of these discussions, our needs as activists were stated more clearly, and from this understanding grew an improved organizational model that seeks to find ways of rewarding each volunteer and each team in New Profile, whether financially (as far as extant funds allow, of course) or by some other means, and above all, by giving explicit recognition to the amount of time New Profile activists put into their work.

This process was lengthy and sometimes inconvenient, but at its end one might say that this year New Profile succeeded, at least for the time being, in leaving behind it an obstacle which we were avoiding for many years, to develop our own organizational approach and to take care of our interests as a group and as individuals.

## **Monthly general meetings**

The general assemblies, held once a month, are the backbone of New Profile's activity from its inception. The monthly assemblies are where New Profile members make all major decisions, conduct ideological debates and above all simply meet one another – a very significant experience for an organization such as New Profile, in which most activists work in separate projects and teams. The assembly meetings make it possible for each of us to get up to date on what other members of New Profile are doing in

their projects and teams and to receive her fellow activists' support. Needless to say, the assembly meetings are open to anyone who wishes to join, regardless of her role or experience as a New Profile activist. This is a very significant feature of New Profile's organizational structure, especially since New Profile practices consensus decision-making, where each activist who takes part in an assembly meeting has the power to determine the results of the movement's decision-making processes.

Each general assembly meeting is facilitated by two New Profile activists, rotating from one meeting to the next. The location and agenda of meetings also change depending on the personal preferences of the facilitators, and on the needs of the movement.

Many decisions on various current issues are made not in the face-to-face meetings, but rather following discussion in the virtual space of New Profile's internal mailing list. Other decisions, affecting specifically some of New Profile's projects, are made by the relevant working teams.

### **New Profile's archive**

Between 2009 and 2011 New Profile's archive shared a space with the Tel-Aviv infoshop *Salon Mazal* – a center for distributing information for social change, including a library offering books and pamphlets on feminism, animal rights, the environment, etc., also hosting weekly lectures and workshops on these topics.

New Profile has cooperated with *Salon Mazal*, on many levels, for years. When, in 2009, we looked for a place to host New Profile's archive, which contains letters and declarations by conscientious objectors written over the years, a small collection of books on militarism, demilitarization and feminism, and materials produced by or written about New Profile, *Salon Mazal* was an obvious choice (in 2011 the archive made another move, to the offices of the Coalition of Women for Peace). New Profile's archive is intended for scholars, journalists, and anybody else wishing to learn more about New Profile's work.

## **Branching out, reaching out**

New Profile is tuned in to many other voices as part of the movement's ongoing attempt to maintain an open dialogue linking and integrating New Profile's thinking with that of other initiatives, groups and individuals. Here are a few instances of such New Profile work.

### **Responding to the Goldstone Report:**

As mentioned in our 2009 Activity Report, the final report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict, popularly known as the Goldstone Report (published September 2009), noted the silencing of dissent inside Israel itself, while focusing mainly on the actions of Israel's military and government in the Gaza Strip, at the start of 2009. In the section on silencing dissent, the Goldstone Report documented systematic abuses of power, both by the police and the legal system, which forcefully targeted and attempted to stifle civil protest. It mentioned the numerous citizens held in detention and denied bail till the end of their trials for demonstrating non-violently to protest the deeds of the military in Gaza, but represented by authorities as a threat to the public. The report also cited the shift to charging demonstrators with serious felonies rather than the misdemeanors of which they had previously, routinely, been accused in similar circumstances. New Profile, as

well as the group Breaking the Silence, were named by the Goldstone Report as two organizations that had undergone systematic persecution due to their support for critical discourse within Israel.

As a movement vehemently decrying the damage that militarization wreaks on society in Israel, we considered it our role to add our testimony to the findings of the Goldstone Report. New Profile decided to address the members of the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council in anticipation of the February 26th, 2010 assembly planned for discussion of the proposal that Israel and Hamas, respectively, conduct internal investigations in light of the report.

The letter we compiled in keeping with this testified to the persecution of New Profile via criminal investigation, as well as its banning from high schools (see under *Lectures and workshops* above). This context served to explain and illustrate central claim of New Profile's letter, i.e.: that the militarized mechanisms pervading the whole of governance and culture in Israel would necessarily prevent honest examination and implementation of the findings of the Fact Finding Mission. We accordingly called on the UN General Assembly and the UN Security Council not to rely on the government mechanisms of the state of Israel but, rather, to take international action towards ending ongoing oppression and human rights violations by Israel, to prevent any further escalation of violence and thus truly implement the conclusions of the Goldstone Report.

### **Following New Profile's e-mail and voicemail**

New Profile's e-mail and voicemail are the two main channels for contacting the movement. One of New Profile's activists regularly checks incoming email, collects requests from other activist groups, from draft resisters in need of information and support and from media from Israel and abroad seeking our comments on a variety of topics. She fields a large amount of incoming questions and requests, sorting and forwarding each to the appropriate New Profile activist(s) to provide responses. Another New Profile activist checks our voicemail and deals similarly with incoming messages and requests.

### **New Profile beyond Israel**

As New Profile constitutes a rather unique movement in our country and region, activists are often invited abroad to offer lectures and workshops to other activist groups, to academic and other conferences and to a varied range of gatherings and assemblies. Every individual activist with New Profile possesses valuable first-hand experience, knowledge and thoughts which amount to a different facet of the movement. All our work is geared to decentralize power and voice and accordingly our response to overseas invitations comprises many different activists who represent their specific view of the movement.

A two-person team coordinates responses to invitations from overseas and, more important, offers each speaker support and assistance in formulating and sounding her version of New Profile's voice. Most activists find these journeys very empowering and rejuvenating as they largely encounter supportive, sympathetic audiences, which aren't very common in our own surroundings. Activists often return energized and more focused, also bringing with them some of the ideas, messages and strategies learnt in their meetings with groups and individuals overseas, which feed into our activities in Israel/Palestine.

In the course of 2010, New Profile representatives traveled to Paraguay, Sweden, India, Norway and went on an exceptionally extended tour in the U.S., sponsored by

the Refuser Solidarity Network and by the Resource Center for Non-Violence, Santa Cruz, California. The idea behind the tour was to bring New Profile's work to audiences outside of major urban centers in the U.S. Tour venues were spread between Santa Cruz, Monterey, Ventura, Thousand Oaks, Fresno, Modesto, Stockton, Davis, Sunnyville, Walnut Creek, in churches, colleges, high schools, reaching audiences that included working class and poverty stricken immigrant communities. In the University of California campus at Santa Cruz, the tour encountered opposition from the local expatriate Israeli community, that claimed the talk would be prejudiced and anti-Israel. As a result, the venue was shifted to a local Lutheran church and, predictably, the scandal doubled the size of the audience.

## **Media appearances**

New Profile is multi-faceted and consequently refrains from using a single official spokesperson. Different activists respond to each request for interviews, whether press, radio or television, in keeping with our feminist ideology of decentralized responsibility, visibility and power. Over 2010 New Profile members gave interviews in a broad variety of media from Chinese and Catalan Television channels to several local Israeli weeklies. Two activists collect and catalog media citations of New Profile and New Profile activists as well as other initiatives publicly supported by New Profile. In 2010, several activists authored op-eds published in Israeli or international media.

## **New Profile's website**

The New Profile website is a central source of information about conscription, draft resistance and avoidance and about de-militarizing society. It is obviously a key channel of communication between the movement and its surroundings. In addition, the website offers access to a discussion forum dedicated to the topics New Profile deals with, as well as to a counseling forum operated by members of the counseling network, which hosts a large number of one-time and regular visitors, most of whom do not participate in other New Profile activities.

In the course of 2010, the New Profile website was accessed by a total of approximately 90,000 visitors who spent an average of 4 minutes each reading materials provided on the site.

Due to technical reasons we were obliged to shut down our previous website in 2009. The current site is a temporary "place holder" set up quickly in its place. It is therefore limited in scope to basic and vital information. New Profile will be launching a new website in early 2012. Please join us at: <http://www.newprofile.org/>.

## **The New Profile alternative info list**

New Profile's listserv, operated in English, reaches an international subscription of about 2000 and its contributing editors are activists based both in Israel and abroad. Its main objective is disseminating information concerning the activities of New Profile, such as updates on the imprisonment of refusers. However, the activists operating the mailing list also collect a broad variety of alternative, independent reports and analyses on developments in Israel and Palestine.

## **Collaborating with other groups**

New Profile, a registered non-profit, is a member of several umbrella organizations and cooperates closely with many other groups.

New Profile was a founding member of the Coalition of Women for Peace – a feminist organization founded in November 2000 and dedicated to ending the occupation and creating a just society through substantial expansion of women’s place and role in public discourse. The Coalition initiates public campaigns, public education and solidarity activities, developing and integrating feminist thinking into every aspect of society, along with groups such as Women in Black, Machsom Watch, the Fifth Mother and WILPF.

New Profile is also a member of the Open Forum convened by HEKS/EPER, a network of Israeli and Palestinian groups supported by this Swiss funding organization. As part of our involvement in the Open Forum, we offer other member groups workshops on the topics we address and participate in other groups’ discussions, study tours and workshops. In 2010, for instance, we took part in a study tour conducted by the Idrid organization in the Galilee, introducing some of the Galilee villages whose inhabitants were displaced in 1948, when Israeli forces occupied these areas. The tour focused the attention New Profile activists on aspects of the damage and corruption of militarization that we had not examined before.

Internationally, New Profile is affiliated with the War Resisters’ International (WRI) and is a member of the International Action Network Against Small Arms (IANSA).

Another interesting instance of collaboration in 2010 was New Profile’s continued participation in the Olympia-Rafah Mural Project. The project is a joint effort of the Rachel Corrie Foundation and the San Francisco Arts Project. The Break the Silence Mural is a declaration of partnership between Olympia, Washington state, U.S.A., Rachel Corrie’s birthplace, and the town of Rafah, Palestine, where she was killed. It is a monumental mural constructed in Olympia and celebrating people and organizations that made sacrifices for freedom, peace and justice. New Profile is one of the organizations represented on this mural, whose entirety illustrates the struggle for freedom for the Palestinian people, contextualized within other efforts such as the struggle for housing, the environmental movement and the human rights movement. In 2010, New Profile activists recorded a brief text to accompany the visual representation of the movement on the mural, enabling viewers to listen to the principles that New Profile embodies.

We are also members of two additional international umbrella groups: War Resisters International and International Action Network on Small Arms.

In addition, we also collaborate regularly with groups such as the Druze Initiative Committee, Gush Shalom, Yesh Gvul, Breaking the Silence, Re’ut-Sadaka, Anarchists Against the Wall, Isha L’Isha Haifa Feminist Center, and many others.

In 2010, New Profile also continued its ongoing collaborative work with many groups and organizations outside Israel, including:

American Friends Service Committee (USA), The Fellowship of Reconciliation (USA), Jewish Peace Fellowship, International Fellowship of Reconciliation and Women Peacemaker Program, SweFOR (Sweden), the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers, DAM – Dialogues Against Militarism (US), Connection e.V. (Germany), Jews with a Different Voice (EU), Not in my Name (Italy), Jewish Voice for Peace (USA), Jewish Peace News (USA), Peace House (UK), The Quakers UN Office in Geneva, Responding to Conflict (UK), Resource Center for Non-Violence, Santa Cruz (USA), Refusers Solidarity Network (USA), Trop c’est Trop (France), Defense for Children International – Palestine, Women to Women for Peace (UK), Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), the World Council of Churches (WCC), Interfaith Peace Builders and Sabeel.

## **Main Funders**

The main funding organizations that supported New Profile during 2010 include:

Brot für die Welt (Germany), HEKS/EPER (Switzerland), Refusers Solidarity Network (USA), Quakers UK, SIVMO (the Netherlands), the Rachel Corrie Foundation (Germany), Tikva Grassroots Empowerment Fund (USA).

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