



Arab–Jewish Co–Housing Initiative

Fellows:

Danny Gal | CEO of Kav Mashve, an organization that promotes equal employment opportunities for Arab academics within the Israeli business sector

Laila Srour Hashivon | “Ofek” program’s director at “Ma’ase” Center. The program offers Arab young adults an opportunity to volunteer for a year of service in their communities

The co–housing initiative will create the conditions for the rise of shared neighborhoods and cities in Israel to promote just and equal Jewish–Arab shared society.

We believe that while gaps and suspicion between Jews and Arab in Israel is growing, our initiative offers an alternative that allows those who believe in shared life to make practical steps toward a shared society in Israel.

We are passionate about this idea and unfortunately don’t see any other groups/players with a similar vision. We can actually make history.

The initiative’s first practical step will be establishing a shared community that will jointly settle in a shared house. This house will be a model for shared life. Members of the community will celebrate diversity on many levels, including cultural, educational, and practical day–to–day life. To get to this stage we see a few critical milestones:

1. An advisory board with representatives of related NGOs, Government, Municipal, Architects, Community Development Experts etc.
2. Research on:
 - a. the needs of communities, potential members and tenant families
 - b. potential business models and partners from the business sector
 - c. potential business models and partners from the business sector
 - d. opportunities and threats – risk management
 - e. lessons learned from similar cases in Israel and the world

3. Identifying the first cohort of families to join the project
4. Planning and running a community–building process for the chosen families
5. Identifying and choosing the business partner
6. Deciding on a location for the first building and taking steps towards construction of the physical space.

We ask UJA–Federation of New York to grant us the funds to recruit a program director and to run the project in the first year, with an option for renewal based on the reported achievements.