



# Annual Report 2016/7

**מעברים - Ma'avarim**

Israeli Transgender Community





## Introduction

This late year was not simple, neither for the organization nor for the community. We parted with loved members of the community. In January DanVeg, a trans woman, bi and non-binary activist, took her own life, and in February, Gila Goldstein, a queen and a warrior, a founder of the community, died due to a stroke. In spite of these tragedies, we were blessed with quite a few achievements, whose details follow.



Ma'avarim is now almost four years old, and throughout the past year we started a process of introspection in order to improve and to professionalize our work.

Until this year Ma'avarim was based only on volunteers, but we aspire to reach a state in which trans people will be rewarded for their hard work, in order to prevent their burnout and make our work sustainable and professional. We were glad to make progress towards this goal.

This year, we decided to invest the support received from the Tel Aviv Municipality in a service we value highly, namely, the personal support we give the community. This support allowed us, for the first time, to employ a part time employee, acknowledging that we need to strengthen and professionalize our personal support service, even at the cost of diminishing other activities. We take this opportunity to congratulate Jay Harris for the job, and congratulate Ma'avarim for having Jay.



Finally, all that remains is to thank our national service volunteers, our board, our coordinators, and all of our supporters and partners - without you we would not have such success!





## The Individual

**The “All Are Welcome” Service** – Our aid and referral service received 330 calls during the year. Additionally, we conducted a training seminar in which we recruited new and devoted volunteers, and a paid coordinator – the first official job for the organization.

**Reception in Haifa** – We started a biweekly reception and aid service in the House of Communities in Haifa.

**Legal Aid** – We helped a trans teen fund a psychiatric expert witness for a claim to allow receiving hormone therapy without the father’s consent.





## The Community

**Scholarship Program** – For the first time, we, together with Microsoft Israel and LGBTech, granted 9 scholarships for community members. During the year we organised a mentoring program and team building events for the grantees.

**“A Voice of Your Own” Workshop** – Following the increasing demand, we opened two courses of the voice feminization workshop. Many trans women struggle with their voice, personally and socially, so that this project is deeply meaningful for them.



**Youth Leadership Development** – We established an activist youth group whose members went through a personal process, learned about social engagement, and executed an advocative project.

**Cooking Course** – With aid from Microsoft Israel and Foodsteps, we opened a professional cooking course for community members that will grant them an employment advantage in this field.

**Day of Remembrance** – We conducted an emotional ceremony for the Transgender Day of Remembrance, centering the connection between trans identity and religion.





### **National and Military Service Seminar –**

We conducted a seminar for the community in which the options for national and military service were presented, and questions were answered by officials from the Gender Affairs Advisor unit and from the Shlomit organization for national service.

**Day of Visibility** – For the International Trans Visibility Day, we conducted a community crafts fair, and a Wikipedia editing workshop to raise awareness of the community.



**Second Hand Bazaar** – We conducted a number of bazaars throughout the year, among them our first Haifa bazaar. This venue provides an environment of gender freedom for choosing clothing without judgement, which is frequently impossible for transgender people in clothing stores.

**Pride Events** – We participated in pride marches all over the country, demonstrated our presence and organised community information booths in the different events.

**Community Meetings** - We held community meetings with inspiring trans professionals, including the lawyer Nicole Nussbaum from Canada and the psychiatrist Dr. Jack Pula from the USA.





## The Society

**Discussions in the Knesset** – We participated in numerous discussions in the Knesset on the LGBTQ Community Rights Day and the International Women's Day, in which we advanced trans subjects. Additionally, we initiated a discussion in the State Audit Committee for the International Trans Day of Remembrance.

**Friends of the Court** – As friends of the court, we joined a claim regarding gender neutral restrooms, in order to present the view of the trans community.

**Connections and Cooperation** – For the benefit of the trans community, we made connections with several organisations, such as the Gender Affairs Advisor unit, the Council for the Child, the Movement for Freedom of Information, the Association for Civil Rights, the LGBTQ Organizations Directors Forum, and the Gender Clinic in Bnai Zion Medical Center.

**Mental Health Round Table** – We initiated a round table, centered on the subject of mental health accessibility for the trans community, where we presented findings of a survey we conducted.

**Changing the Gender Marker** – We initiated a cross government office movement to promote the subject of changing the gender marker, which today is a cause of discrimination and even violence to many trans people.



**Ministry of Education** – We continued cooperating with the psychological and consultation service of the Ministry of Education to develop recommendations relating to trans people in the education system.

**Advocacy Department** – We began the establishment of a new advocacy department, whose aim is to create access to services through education of professionals about the trans community. Within this department, we entered the Ministry of Education's program database.

**Lectures** – Throughout the year, we conducted lectures in different settings, among which are a Tel Aviv municipal welfare department, at-risk youth instructors of Elem NGO, social work students, the Cadets for State Service program and a conference of the Family Therapists Association.

**Rehabilitation Conference** – We conducted a conference about the trans community for rehabilitation workers, with the aim of making these services more accessible to the community.

**National Service** – The trans youth national service program was in danger of shutting down, and thanks to much effort we managed to prevent the closing.

**Social Security** – Due to our work with Social Security, a process regulating trans people's referrals was written.

