



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

**Enhancing Cooperation between State and Non-State Providers
of Welfare Services:**

Mr. Rony Kalinsky, CEO

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel

1. Can you describe us the situation in Israel, regarding the cooperation between state and 3rd sector, and how the concept of philanthropy involved?

The number of Holocaust Survivors in Israel today is approximately 189,000. Their mean age is 83.3 and about half of them migrated from the Soviet Union in the 90s'. There is a new national list that includes all of the holocaust survivors in the country, though it remains a secret and it's not being shared by the state. One quarter of the survivors live below the official Israeli poverty line.

The survivors who immigrated to Israel after the Holocaust were involved in the establishment of the state, and most of them integrated successfully into the local Jewish population.

The state of Israel was in its early stages of construction and its resources and attention were directed mainly to establish and build the nation. Holocaust survivors found



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

Themselves coming from tragedy to the Promised Land and were already partners in the War of Independence- from the ship to the battlefield.

Only in the year 2000, the survivors began to mobilize, and in 2007, they went out into the streets in a massive protest, wearing ghetto clothes and yellow patches in Jerusalem. They protested against their feeling of being neglected by the state, a feeling that has become even more difficult as they grow older and become more dependent on others.

In Judaism, there is a well-known phrase "צדקה תציל" (righteousness delivers from death). that is, charity, volunteerism, and philanthropy is the way to achieve good health and long life-according to biblical interpretation.

The relationship between the state and the third sector organizations, among them: The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel that I manage began to build and grow especially after the stormy protests.



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר.)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

Israel has a highly developed third sector; it contains about 40,000 non-profit organizations, large and small, in various fields of endeavor, and employs about 10% of the state workforce and represents approximately 7% of the GNP of the economy.

Part of the growth in activity in the third sector is due to the policy of privatizing state entities and other professional services. This has many advantages, but also significant drawbacks, such as the survivors' sense that the state is "running away" from its responsibility to respond to their distress.

In the past two years there has been a significant improvement in the involvement of the state in aiding the survivors in Israel in various ways, among them: a list of almost all of the survivors was finalized, a list that enables, for example, all those recognized as survivors to receive free medicine. The list is one attempt to support a new wave of projects to allow the Holocaust survivors' full exercise their rights, for example, in the mental health system, as mentioned earlier.



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

I can personally testify that the state of Israel and the Claims Conference urged the Fund to start fundraising and promote philanthropic activities. It is very possible that the motivation behind this intent was to find alternative resources for the state's funds because of increasing budgetary needs due to the increasing needs of the holocaust survivors.

By 2011 the Fund did not initiate any fundraising activities because the managing committee did not agree to "beg" for money. It was also feared that no one will donate money and volunteer their hours for toothless old men and women, and in fact prefer to "invest" their philanthropy effort for children at risk or lonely soldiers.

For the past three years we built a growing enterprise of fund raising from within Israel and abroad, and the result is impressive: an increase from 160,000 \$ in 2011 to 4,750,000 \$ in 2015. This enabled us to respond and assist in many specific cases and fields that we could not address before.



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר.)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

2. Can you identify the factors that promote or withhold state – 3rd sector cooperation in Israel, and can you give us examples from your organization experience?

The relationship between the state and the third sector organizations in Israel is complicated, especially in cases in which the state co-finances programs that the organizations are supposed to execute. There is noticeable growth in both regulation and auditing processes that on the one hand is necessary for the state to supervise third sector activity in order to insure that the money (budget and even philanthropic funds) will go to the defined purpose, including organizational effectiveness. On the other hand, the state's intervention sometimes exceeds to the level of disrupting the ability to act and fully utilize the benefits of third sector bodies. For example: cases in which too much bureaucracy delay or even prevents the ability to provide a fast and flexible service for the holocaust survivors.



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

Many organizations within the third Sector, and the fund among them, gained advantages that resulted from accumulated professional knowledge and direct personal contact with survivors and their families. Therefore, the ability to provide quality service in various professional fields such as deciding to give extra hours of nursing care to a survivor in need, is based on personal and professional capacity of the third sector organizations like the foundation. The Fund considers the full range of needs and often responds by offering a variety of services suited for the survivor, as part of a holistic service approach.

On the contrary, the state should and can provide wide range solutions, which are usually suited for all, but finds it difficult to answer the needs of specific cases.

The main factor that makes it difficult for third sector organizations and state cooperation is in identifying the boundaries between the responsibilities of the state and capacity of the third sector to get involved and help. Even the media, especially the "new media", want to expose difficult and exceptional cases, and like to place blame.



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

From here there are 2 options: 1. each of the parties: both state and organizations, will throw the responsibility on each other ("the state doesn't care about its people..." vs. "Who needs all these organizations anyway" ...) or 2. Is that everyone will work together to provide a quick response to these cases.

As part of the fund's individual treatment program, social workers who specialize in assisting holocaust survivors, operate using the "case management method". This program is funded by the state. The social workers contacted the survivor immediately and found a long series of numerous complex problems, some of which could have been solved immediately and some requiring some time, such as dental care and adjustment of his apartment to his needs, but some of the problems needed a wide range solutions, sometimes without success. The Ministry of Justice has also been called to get involved in helping canceling debt, and the Ministry of Finance in providing medications for free, and non-profit organizations were mobilized to supply food, accommodations and renovation of the apartment.



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר.) The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

Now I will share with you. A successful case of collaboration.

As part of the attempt to promote care for all holocaust survivors in the health system, a program to help survivors suffering from mental health issues exercises their rights was undertaken. In this Joint Program, partners from the Israel Ministry of Health and the Claims Conference created a program exercised by The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust Victims in Israel. The Social Work National Service in the Ministry of Health is professionally responsible and mentoring the program.

As part of the service provided in this project, regional social workers dedicated to the subject are working to help survivors in the mental health clinics under the Ministry of Health fully exercise their rights and improve the welfare and quality of their lives. The program was started approximately 7 months ago throughout Israel and has so far assisted approximately 500 holocaust survivors, where the potential for this project is about 3,000 survivors at the national level.



הקרן לרווחה לנפגעי השואה בישראל (ע.ר.)

The Foundation for the Benefit of Holocaust victims in Israel

The Holocaust Survivors' Full Exercise of Rights Program in the Mental Health System is a very good example of a successful cooperation between state and NGO's. This cooperation is essential through all the levels of the project: from the steering committee which consists of members from all 3 partners who take part in this project, through the regional managers and their counterparts in the health department, to the cooperation in the field level between the social workers of the state and those of the foundation for the benefit of holocaust victims in Israel.