

About the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

More than 40 years ago, Konrad Adenauer and David Ben-Gurion laid the foundation for reconciliation between Germany and Israel and for the future in partnership of the two nations. Carrying on the legacy of the late chancellor, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) has been active in Israel for more than 25 years.

Together with local partner organizations we work on three main objectives:

- We preserve and further develop the relationship between Germany and Israel. This task is increasingly acquiring a European dimension as well.
- We support efforts to strengthen democracy and the rule of law in Israel.
- We strive to facilitate a peaceful coexistence between Israel and its neighbors.

The future of German-Israeli relations is one of KAS's most challenging tasks. We are currently facing a watershed in German-Israeli history: The generation of survivors and witnesses of the Shoah is slowly passing away. To many members of the younger generations it is often not obvious why the relations between the two countries are so important for both sides. KAS sees it as one of its prime tasks to foster a future-oriented and sustained dialogue between Germans and Israelis. This trustful dialogue is to be based on the lessons of the past, but also on common values and shared future challenges in the fields of society, science and security.

Our efforts in aiding Israeli civil society mainly focus on projects improving the integration of minorities. One example is our joint program with the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, which helps Bedouins achieve higher education and thus enables them to participate more successfully in Israel's modern society. For years we have also undertaken extensive programs advancing in practice equal rights for women. In further projects we raise awareness for human rights issues and non-violent conflict management.

In order to help assure Israel's existence in peace and security by bringing about a peaceful solution to the conflict with the Palestinians and Israel's Arab neighbors, KAS organizes dialogue programs for Israeli and Palestinian politicians, officials, businessmen, journalists and students. Not even during the worst times of the "Second Intifada" did these meetings stop. In many cases the participants managed to solve practical problems while at the same time helping to lay the basis for a future comprehensive peace. Other outcomes were common Israeli-Palestinian teaching materials and the strengthening of Israeli-Jordanian relations through joint business meetings.

All KAS projects are guided by our belief in the benefits of democracy, freedom, a market economy and peaceful coexistence. We aim at making a lasting and sustainable contribution to Israel's thriving in peace, prosperity, and partnership with Europe.