

ICAN

INTERNATIONAL
COMMUNITY
ACTION
NETWORK

Building a rights-based movement for social change:
ICAN's Graduate Fellowship Program
2014-2016



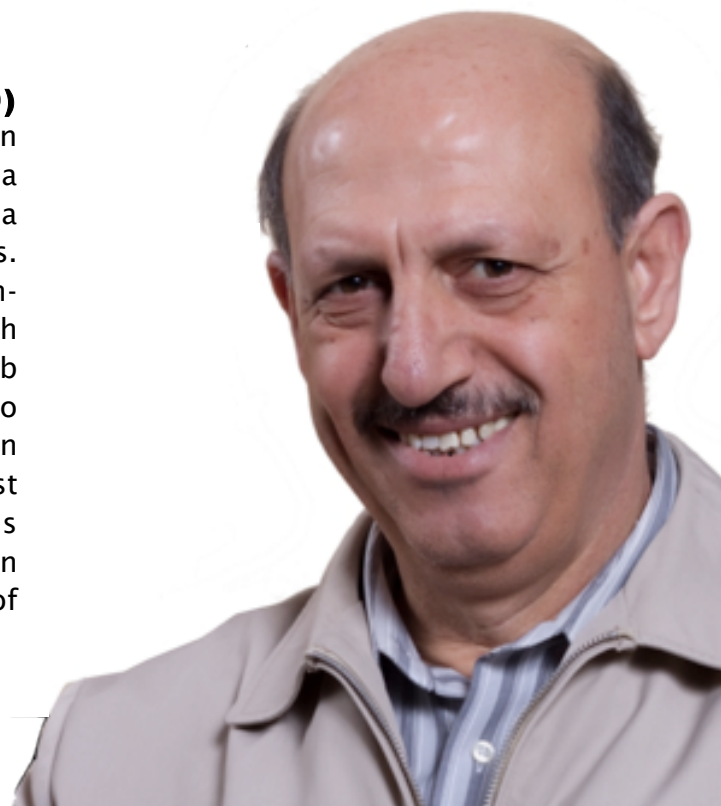
ICAN Executive Director



Amal Elsana-Alhjooh (Israel '99) Executive Director ICAN is one of the key shapers of public opinion regarding the status of the Arab minority and the status of women in Israel. In 2010, she was chosen by The Marker (Israeli business publication) as 1 of the 101 most influential people in Israel; was one of the women leaders recognized in 2005 by the World Association for Small and Medium Enterprises for her contributions to economic empowerment programs for Bedouin Arab women. She has also been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. She is the founding director of AJEEC – Arab Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation and co-director of NISPED – Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development. Amal is also currently pursuing her PhD back at McGill.

ICAN Alumni Spotlight

Sami Al Kilani (Palestine MSW '00, PhD '10) began his career as a physicist and poet, and was an Amnesty prisoner of conscience in the 1980s. He was a delegate to the Madrid Conference and has been a strong advocate for non-violence since the 1980's. Sami is one of the founding members of the Arab non-violence movement, which meets for one month each summer in Beirut and has evolved into the first Arab University for Non Violence (AUNV). It aims to institutionalize the culture of non-violence in Lebanon and all the Middle East. Sami is the founder of the first RBCP centre in the West Bank and his doctoral thesis explored the implementation of the RBCP model in Palestine. Today he is Dean of the Faculty of Educational Sciences at An Najah National University.



An Introduction to ICAN

Founded in 1997 to strengthen the capacity of organizational partners in the Middle East, the International Community Action Network (ICAN) – formerly known as the McGill Middle East Program (MMEP) – is committed to the belief that the reduction of inequality and the promotion of social justice builds the most reliable foundation for strong, healthy societies. ICAN has advanced these beliefs through the establishment of eleven rights-based community practice (RBCP) centres in low-income neighbourhoods in Jordan, Israel and Palestine. These centres assist more than 120,000 people each year and have pioneered scores of innovative community programs that have empowered individuals, changed public policies and advanced social justice.

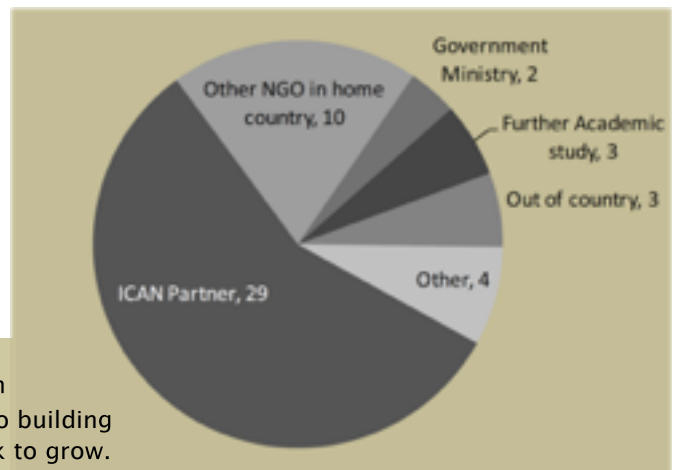
Fellowships: At the core of ICAN's success

Candidates from Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Syria are selected based on their leadership skills and experience in community organizing. They are trained at McGill University in interdisciplinary community practice during a two-year fellowship program, leading to an MSW degree.

Today, fifty alumni are working throughout the region to advance civil society and social justice in their respective countries.

Of ICAN's 53 graduate alumni, only 3 have left their country of origin, despite holding graduate degrees from a prestigious international institution. Their dedication to building civil society from the ground up has allowed our network to grow.

ICAN Alumni



Our change model: Rights-Based Community Practice (RBCP)

The RBCP model focuses on the equality of rights for all people, addressing issues of disenfranchisement at the individual, communal, societal and political levels. ICAN's International Fellowship Program, launched in 1997, brings together students from Israel, Palestine, Jordan and Syria for a two-year Master's program in Montreal. Fellows are recruited jointly by McGill and partners in the field. In exchange for the two-year, fully funded graduate fellowship, Fellows commit to work in RBCP centres and with academic partners for four years after earning their degree. This has ensured the dissemination of ICAN's model through both practice on the ground and university teaching. The adaptability of the model and rigorous training of Fellows are driving factors behind the model's successful implementation in such diverse social and cultural contexts as Canada, Israel, Jordan and Palestine.

The Fellowship Program

In the two year MSW Fellowship program, Fellows study at McGill University, in Montreal, and spend the second year back in their home communities, completing field placements and research projects in RBCP. Beyond their coursework at McGill, there are six distinguishing aspects of the program:

1. Community Practice Seminar:

The Community Practice Seminar provides Fellows with the opportunity to draw on their own knowledge and experience, and to relate these to the RBCP Centres back in the region.

2. Interdisciplinary Seminar Series:

Interspersed throughout the academic year, leading academics and practitioners involved in the social, cultural, economic and political dimensions of both movement building and community development, lead in-depth seminars with the Fellows.

3. Year-Long Exchange Seminar:

Fellows participate in a year-long exchange seminar sharing personal narratives with the goal of humanizing one another, understanding the very different sociopolitical environments they come from, and learning how to use human relationships in community development and movement building.

4. Field Practicum:

During the first year of the program in Canada, Fellows observe the work of several organizations and opt to volunteer in one carefully selected community-based agency, public institution, voluntary organization, or policy development body.

5. Non-Profit Management Seminar Series:

In order to ensure that the organizations they build and strengthen back home have the capacity to develop sustainably, Fellows participate in non-profit management seminars over the course of the program.

6. Research:

An important part of the second year of the program, on return to the Middle East, is the research project. Fellows complete field work in professional roles within RBCP centres, while undertaking research projects on topics of their choice that are relevant to the goals and objectives of their RBCP Practice Centre.

ICAN build better futures

Over the course of the past three years we have worked tirelessly to raise funds to bring a cohort of ICAN Graduate Fellows to Montreal, the first since 2008. We have a brilliant cohort of nine Middle Eastern Fellows studying for their MSW degrees at McGill and have, for the first time, introduced a Syrian Fellow into the group. They are inspiring organizers with diverse backgrounds in health, law, engineering, social work, psychology, communications, education and more. Pictured in the Montreal winter on the cover, meet these current and future social justice leaders:



Kifah Baniowed, from the village of Tammoun near Jenin, holds a BS in Medical Laboratory Science from An-Najah National University and two MS degrees, in Laboratory Science (Birzeit U), and health management and policy (Al Quds U). Kifah works on research into the relationship between communities and authorities and worked as a project manager at the Center for Development of Primary Health Care at Al Quds University.



Irit Ben-Porat began her post-secondary education at the Secular Yeshiva in Tel Aviv before completing her BA in political science and literature from Tel Aviv University. Irit has worked in a variety of capacities with teenagers and youth, with a focus on empowering young Israeli women. Most recently, she managed the "Circle of Groups", a nationwide federation of co-operative urban communities, while also advising groups in the education sphere on unionization.



Shirly Karavani holds a BA, Communications, from Sapir College and an MA in Nonprofit Management from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Shirly's focus has been on education and human rights advocacy, working in the education department of Amnesty International and as a TA at the Hebrew University. Most recently, Shirly worked as a community organizer for Shatil, the empowerment wing of the New Israel Fund.



Ibtisam Khasawneh obtained a BA in Education from Yarmouk Univ. and an MA in Clinical Psychology from the University of Jordan with a thesis on drug addiction and its community impacts. She has worked as a counselor and psychologist at many NGOs. Most recently she worked at ICAN's Waqa in Amman as a psychologist empowering women to move away from victimhood toward full citizenship with equal rights.



Amit Kitain obtained his BSW at Sapir College. He has worked with refugees, and founded and facilitated Jewish-Arab dialogue groups. He also served as head of of "social workers for change" which he established with friends at Sapir College. With a focus on rights and organizing, Amit worked as the lead community organizer at ICAN's affiliated centres in Sderot and Ofakim from 2012 until leaving for McGill. He will play an essential role in expanding RBCP in southern Israel on his return.



Adnan Mahameed, a mechanical engineer by training (Aleppo University), has been at the epicentre of the non-violent Syrian revolution since its first day in 2011. Prior to the revolution, Adnan worked in his field at both the Damascus and Aleppo airports and opened his own engineering firm. With the outbreak of the revolution he could no longer go to his office and became one of the founders of the April 17 Movement for Democratic Change. He has worked with a variety of citizens' organizations and in providing humanitarian relief in Syria. His journey out of Syria and commitment to its future are deeply inspiring to all.



Baheej Nasassra completed his BA in Psychology and Counseling at An-Najah National University. Hailing from Nablus, he has worked as a volunteer in the SOS Children's Village, working directly with families and communities to empower them to effectively protect and care for their children and young people; in a union of people with disabilities; and as a therapist at ICAN's affiliated centre, CSC, in Nablus in their hospital psycho-social support program. Baheej later joined a multi-disciplinary team in the CSC Housing Program as a social psychologist to empower vulnerable families.



Tahany Okby, a Palestinian Bedouin from southern Israel, holds a BSW from Ben Gurion University. Since graduating she has worked as both a family therapist and researcher. Before departing for McGill, she worked with people with eating disorders at the Soroka Univ. Medical Centre; in the Community Unit for Child Development, with Bedouin children and their families; and advocating for children's rights vis-a-vis government authorities. She is a go-to expert around issues of child welfare in southern Israel.

Fellowship Budget

In addition to the budgeted items outlined below, the following resources are available to Fellows:

Host families in Montreal (they live with these families in their first weeks while seeking accommodations); English tutors; Mentors in social work; Services from the Office for Students with Disabilities (as needed); Services from the International Student Office; Field supervisors and placements; Faculty advisors; Public speaking workshops and engagements; to name but a few. Further, MMEP Fellows share a large room in the School of Social Work with computer terminals and common space, which they have exclusive access to over the course of their year in Montreal.

The cost per Fellowship includes the direct cost per fellow (\$72,703–over 2 years), with a percentage of the overall cost of programming and coordination divided among the members of the cohort (\$18,750 per Fellow–over two years).

The total cost per Fellow is \$91,453.

Based on a cohort of up to 12 members, the cost of the two–year Master’s Fellowship Program would be approximately \$1,097,441 CAD.

Individual Fellowship Components	Year 1	Year 2	Cost per Fellow	12 Fellow Cohort
Travel, Visas	\$4,000	\$0	\$4,000	\$48,000
Living Allowance	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$45,000	\$540,000
Quebec Tuition + Fees	\$3,616	\$1,808	\$5,424	\$65,085
International Tuition	\$11,199	\$5,600	\$16,799	\$201,582
Health Insurance	\$981	\$0	\$981	\$11,773
Book Allowance	\$500	\$0	\$500	\$6,000
Subtotal	\$45,296	\$27,407	\$72,703	\$872,441
Fellowship Coordination & Programming				
Fellowship Coordinator	\$50,000	\$30,000	\$6,667	\$80,000
Narrative Exchange Facilitator	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$2,917	\$35,000
Social Activities and Retreats	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$3,333	\$40,000
Administrative Support	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$4,167	\$50,000
Contingency	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$1,667	\$20,000
Subtotal	\$130,000	\$95,000	\$18,750	\$225,000
Totals (Per Fellow and Full Cohort)			\$91,453	\$1,097,441

ICAN Alumni:

A grassroots movement for social justice and peace

To date, Fellowship Alumni number 19 Israelis, 16 Jordanians and 18 Palestinians. These Alumni are at the forefront of civil society and peace building in their respective societies. They established and operate the ICAN practice centres, serve as public-interest lawyers, lead government bodies and large-scale NGOs, and teach on the cutting edge of social work, public policy and peace building at universities across the region. Below are a few of our distinguished alumni:

- **Talal Qdah** (Jordan '02), director of the Amman Center, participated in the International Visitor Leadership Program sponsored by the U.S. State Department, alongside directors of NGOs from across the developing world. The relationships he built there have continued to bolster his work, which included the launch of a third ICAN center in Amman.
- **Nuha Dweikat-Shaer** (Palestine '09), is both an architect and social worker, focused on affordable, sustainable housing in Palestine. She began her career at one of the leading architectural firms in Palestine, leaving as the reason she studied architecture was to improve the housing situation of disadvantaged people. She has taught social work, co-coordinated a program that has revitalized more than 600 homes of low income people in Nablus and is now pursuing her PhD in social work at McGill.
- **Michal Gomel** (Israel '09), has been a leader in organizing poor people to advocate for increased food security in Israel, as well as to promote urban renewal projects that protect disenfranchised people. She recently presented the right-based model to a wide audience at this year's TEDxMcGill conference.
- **Hmoud Al Olimat** (Jordan '99) was the founding director of the Graduate Social Work Program at the University of Jordan, an academic program created in partnership with MMEP. He has also served as Director General of Jordan's Ministry of Social Affairs.
- **Rad Al Hadid** (Jordan '02) served as: Regional Disaster Management Officer at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; as MMEP Fellowship coordinator; and recently, led the recruitment of Jordanian students for an MMEP offshoot program in Israel. Fifteen Jordanians are in a three year emergency medicine program at Ben Gurion University of the Negev, leading the way for a joint Israeli-Jordanian emergency response system. Rad is pursuing a Master's in Disaster Management at York University.



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INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION NETWORK

There are many ways you can support ICAN and its Fellowships:

ANNUAL GIFTS

General Support

ICAN encourages unrestricted general support gifts. Such gifts provide ICAN the flexibility to direct funds where they are most urgently needed.

Area Designated Gifts

An area designated gift enables you to specify whether you wish your support to be directed to one or all of our centers in Israel, Jordan or Palestine.

Program Designated Gifts

You can designate your gift to ICAN's work on the issue you care most deeply about: Housing, employment, women's empowerment, victims of violence, health, fellowships, and more.

PLANNED GIFTS

Planned gifts can be made by designating ICAN as the beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy or retirement plan, or by making a gift that provides you with income during your life.

ENDOWMENT GIFTS

An endowed fund can be established with a gift of \$100,000 or more and will continue in perpetuity. The principal remains untouched while the revenue generated is used for the purposes recommended by the donor. Endowment gifts afford you the opportunity to have your name, or the name of a loved one you wish to honor or memorialize, permanently associated with ICAN.

Gifts made to ICAN at McGill University are tax deductible in Canada and the United States. McGill is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization in the USA.

For more information about making a gift to ICAN, call Amal Elsana-Alhjooh at (514) 398-8006 or email amal.el-sanana@mcgill.com

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