

**8<sup>th</sup> HUMAN RIGHTS FILM SERIES**

**ENCOUNTER POINT**  
**RESOURCE PAGE**<sup>1</sup>

The creation of the State of Israel gave a home to a dispossessed people but while also dispossessing a large population in turn. Conflict has plagued the region ever since, periodically escalating into all out war (as in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982 and 2006). There have also been two prolonged periods of extensive conflict between Palestinians and Israelis in the First Intifada (1987-1983) and now the Second Intifada (2000 to present). Tales of suicide bombers and militant parties calling for their opponents' destruction saturate our media and imply that the situation is hopeless, and that neither side is willing to compromise. Certain individuals and groups are now seeking to change this image with a grassroots movement for peace in the hopes that both Israelis and Palestinians may transcend the cycle and culture of violence to reconcile and coexist in harmony with one another.

*Encounter Point* is a documentary film that follows the stories of several ordinary people in Israel and Palestine who work for an end to the bloodshed and occupation by promoting a nonviolent end to the conflict. The film follows a former Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, a bereaved Israeli mother and a wounded Palestinian bereaved brother all risking much in an effort to bring peace.

Many organizations and individuals in the region are working in new ways for peaceful solutions. One such organization is the Bereaved Families Forum. Founded in 1995, the Forum is comprised of five hundred Palestinian and Israeli families, all of whom have lost family members to violence in the region. The Forum offers different leadership and media programs that promote peace and reconciliation and challenge participants to reconsider their attitude towards the conflict. Members host a weekly radio program on the "All for Peace" radio, and a TV drama is in production. The Forum also operates the "Hello Peace!" project, a toll-free telephone service. Callers discuss peace and reconciliation with people "on the other side." The innovative project is leading to new friendships-- in the project's first 18 months, over 1 million calls were placed. Two of the Forum's members are featured prominently in *Encounter Point*. Robi Damelin joined the Forum after her son, David, was killed by a Palestinian sniper during his army reserve service. George Sa'adeh is another Forum member featured in the film. While driving home from the supermarket, Israeli soldiers opened fire on George's family, killing his daughter, Christine. These are only two stories about individuals who faced the horrors of this conflict only to decide that working for peace is the only solution. Of course, working for peace in such an environment remains difficult. Peace activists risk their lives and their public standing. To learn about the film's other main characters—Ali, Shlomo, Sami, Tzvika, Ruthie, and Aziz—visit the film's website, [www.Encounterpoint.org](http://www.Encounterpoint.org).

**To learn more about other groups and activists working for peace in Israel and Palestine:**

**Young Israeli Forum for Cooperation**

YIFC promotes dialogue between Israelis and Palestinian and seeks to empower young professionals to generate movement toward the resolution of the conflict.

<http://www.yifc.org/>

**The International Peace and Cooperation Center**

Established 1998, the center develops initiatives which support the social, cultural, and economic processes to promote a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous future for the Palestinian people.

<http://www.ipcc-jerusalem.org/>

**Just Vision**

Creates media and educational resources about Palestinian and Israeli joint peace and nonviolence efforts in order to encourage broader participation in grassroots peace building. Just Vision produced *Encounter Point*.

[www.justvision.org/](http://www.justvision.org/)

**Seeds of Peace**

A US-based program for teenagers to attend a camp in the US with follow up programs in their home areas. The program is dedicated to empowering young leaders with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation and coexistence.

[www.seedspeace.org](http://www.seedspeace.org)

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