## **Declaration of Restorative Principles**

Promoting a fair and safe society in Israel

Acknowledging the complex conditions of living in Israel, the expanding social tensions, violence and alienation, we hereby declare the adoption of an approach based on individual, mutual and social responsibility of every person, by way of gathering all concerned for the purpose of substituting the escalation tensions by agreeing on alternative resolutions of conflict and risk situation through respectful dialog.

We wish to implement a new way of resolving conflicts and healing social divisions, decreasing violence, and cultivating and promoting our environment. We wish to create an empathic and respecting society based on social discussion and on the involvement of the community as a whole; a society which allows all its members to express their needs and hopes, listening and encouraging them to act for the promotion of their own well-being and of others. The new way is based upon the construction, preservation, cultivation and restoration of relationships. It is based on respectful discussion and mutual attentiveness, on transparency and equity of the individual and the community in private and public spheres in daily life as well as in situations of conflict and dispute.

## We believe:

Prosperous societies and communities are built upon the cultivation of interpersonal relationships, generating caring, positive attitudes and a sense of belonging; Based on encouraging involvement, accountability, tolerance and mutual trust.

It is the right and the obligation of all people of any religion, national origin, gender, nationality, or social class to be responsible for their actions and consciously involved in determining their future and forming their environment.

Every person deserves the chance to learn from the outcomes of his or her behavior, and to take responsibility for those outcomes in the presence of their community and family.

Every person deserves the help and support of his or her community in mending the harm they have suffered or caused and in making amends. Restorative justice includes and involves victims, offenders, their families, community members and, professionals.

## Thereby:

We call upon Citizens – to initiate improvements in their living conditions and environment, to take responsibility for their behavior and its consequences, and to practice tolerance.

We call upon Communities - to encourage bonding initiatives and to support process conflict resolution on the basis of restorative principles, to take an active part in them and adopt them as a way of life.

We call upon State Agencies, Business and Social Organizations - to integrate restorative processes in their internal conduct and relations with the authorities and the public, and to promote community initiatives supporting these processes.

**We call upon Authorities** - to foster, encourage and adopt initiatives supporting Communal relationship-building, and offer ways to resolve small-scale and wide-range conflicts the basis of the restorative principles as part of existing practices or in additional to them.

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