



## IATF Speaker Fellowship: Information and Biographies

The IATF Speakers Fellowship prepares next generation changemakers from Arab society in Israel for meaningful connections with American Jewish communities. It provides American Jewish organizations with a network of speakers and thought partners while offering Arab/Palestinian citizens opportunities to share their stories and strengthen their skills. This unique program responds to growing desires within the American Jewish community for authentic connections with a diverse cross-section of Israelis and creates concrete entry points to some of the most dynamic and important priorities for Israeli society today. Educational programs with IATF Speaker Fellows are designed to foster honest exchange, mutual learning, and meaningful engagement for groups with any level of familiarity with Arab society in Israel.

The inaugural cohort of the IATF Speaker Fellowship consists of seven Arab/Palestinian citizens of Israel, each of whom are changemakers in different ways. The cohort spans diverse professional and social change activities including civil society, journalism, higher education, leadership, economic development, arts and culture, high-tech, and more.

*Fellows share their personal perspectives and experiences; they are not representatives of their employers or IATF. While many of the Fellows can offer insights into Arab citizens' experience of the ongoing war, they are not geopolitical or security experts. Programs will focus on Arab citizens and Jewish-Arab relations within Israel, and the impact of ongoing events on these topics.*

### IATF Speaker Fellowship Biographies



#### **Basel Khalaila**

##### *Senior Editor and Writer for TV Journalism*

Basel is a Senior Editor and Writer for TV journalism programs. His career includes a notable stint as Chief of Staff, Spokesperson, and Adviser to MK Dr. Yousef Jabareen in the Knesset from 2017-2021. As an undergraduate student at Haifa University, Basel was elected Chairman of a student movement. In this role, he led several campaigns advocating for the rights of Arab students. Among his significant contributions was his leadership during the “Coalition of Direct Employment” campaign, which successfully transitioned the university’s janitorial staff to direct employment in May 2018. Basel holds a B.A. in Political Science & Sociology from Haifa University and an M.A. in Public Policy from Tel Aviv University. Basel lives in Majd Al-Kurum village, an Arab Village in the Galilee.



#### **Camellia Darawsha**

##### *Diversity Officer, Tel Aviv University*

Camellia is the Diversity Officer at the Equity, Diversity and Community Commission, Office of the Vice President, Tel Aviv University. In this capacity, she works on designing and implementing policies to promote equity, diversity and partnership in the academic institution. In addition to directing the “Faculty Diversity Forum” and accompanying academic units, she is responsible for the “Shared Space” Project on campus, aiming to increase a sense of belonging among diverse groups. She has years of experience promoting diversity and multiculturalism within Israeli society, as well as extensive academic knowledge in this field with an emphasis on ethnic groups

Camellia worked for three years as Prof. Amal Jamal's research assistant in the Faculty of Social Sciences, the School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs, focusing on culture and minority groups. She was the administrative director of the Walter Lebach Institute for the Study of Arab-Jewish Relations at Tel Aviv University. She previously worked as a career coordinator for the Palestinian Arab students at the Career Development Center, Dean of Students Office. Camellia has a master's degree in literature and American studies from Tel Aviv University. She lives in Jaffa, Israel, with her husband and she is a devoted feeder of stray cats.



### **Fadi Far**

*Consultant, Tel Aviv Museum of Art*

Fadi was a Strategy Consultant at TASC Consulting and Capital, where he played a pivotal role in the implementation and oversight of Government Resolution 550 (GR-550), the Ministry for Social Equality's 30 billion NIS Plan for Socioeconomic Development in Arab Society in Israel ("Takadum"). Fadi collaborated with ministries and local authorities to address barriers faced by Arabs in Israel.

Fadi contributes to the cultural enrichment of Arab society as a strategy consultant at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art. In this role, he leads efforts to make the museum more accessible and relevant to the Arab community. Fadi's passion for art and its social impact has driven him to pursue studies in art curation at the Shenkar College of Arts, Engineering, and Design. Fadi is also a certified writer for Wikipedia, teaches communications skills, and previously volunteered with the World Economic Forum's Global

Shapers community. Fadi holds a B.Sc. degree in Linguistics and Biology (Neuroscience Focus) from Tel Aviv University.



### **Hasan Haj**

*Educator, Mazmichim and Beit HaGefen*

Hasan is an educator at Matzmichim, the Israeli Violence Reduction Organization. In this role, he delivers courses for teachers and runs workshops to make the classroom a more comfortable place for everyone. Hasan also works as an educational program partner, guest speaker, and guide for Beit HaGefen, a Jewish-Arab multicultural center in Haifa. He guides and mentors teenagers, educators and visitors, including workshops on living together, art, and tours of Haifa. As a mental performance coach for athletes, he lectures at a certifying mental performance course for the Arabic society and train athletes on the mental aspects to improving performance.

Previously, Hasan worked as a financial data analyst at Thomson Reuters, and has 12 years of experience in the financial world. Hasan graduated from Haifa University

with a B.A. in Psychology and Statistics. He holds an M.A. in Educational Leadership from UCLAN University in Cyprus and an M.A. in Blockchain and Digital Currencies from University of Nicosia. Hasan was born and raised in Nahef village in the northern Galilee, and lives in Haifa with his wife.



### **Khitam Abu Bader**

*Director of the Raidat Leadership Program for Women, Desert Stars*

Khitam is the Director of the Raidat Leadership Program for Women at Desert Stars, a nonprofit organization for Bedouin leadership. The Raidat Leadership Program for Women is a post-high school gap-year program that prepares young Bedouin women for ambitious careers, entrepreneurial initiatives, and future leadership roles.

Over the last decade, Khitam has held various positions in the informal education field. Khitam's work included promoting youth leadership in Negev Bedouin society; directing the Youth and Young Adult Department at the Rahat Community Center; and developing and running leadership and social action programs for youth in Rahat. She founded and directed the Arab sector activities of Krembo Wings, a youth movement

for children and youth with and without disabilities. Khitam holds a B.A. in Humanities and Social Sciences from Sapir Academic College and is a graduate of the Mandel Institute leadership program. She lives in the town of Lakiya in Southern Israel.



### **Nour Dassouky**

*Program Associate, Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues*

Nour joined the Inter-Agency Task Force on Israeli Arab Issues as Program Associate in 2023. She comes from the social entrepreneurship eco-system where she founded and managed two education-related ventures, Al Hakavati and Baladi. Al Hakavati is a social venture focused on reviving Arab storytelling culture by empowering community members to tell their unique stories stemming from the Arab folklore and culture. Baladi is a social venture leveraging street stunts to promote youth at risk. Born in Jaffa, Nour completed her education at the Academic College of Tel Aviv–Yaffo, and holds a B.A. in Government and Society and an M.A. Family Studies.



### **Saja Kabaha**

*Program Manager and Arab Tech Sector Lead, British Embassy Tel Aviv*

Saja Kabaha is a social activist and entrepreneur. In her current role as Program Manager and Arab Tech Sector Lead at the British Embassy in Tel Aviv, she works to advance tech diplomacy. Previously, at Intel, Saja was the Community Manager, spearheading numerous projects and initiatives focused on impact and social good. She championed equal access to STEM education for underrepresented communities. In 2021, she co-founded Seeratech, the first-of-its-kind Arab-speaking, women-led podcast tailored for Arabs interested in the hi-tech and innovation industry. Saja formerly co-led the West Jerusalem Global Shapers Hub, a transformative initiative powered by the World Economic Forum. This experience reflects her ongoing commitment to community leadership and making a meaningful impact on a global scale.

Saja earned her BA from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in International Affairs and Communication and holds a certificate in global leadership from Georgetown University. She was born and raised in Barataa, a small village in Wadi Ara.

## **About IATF**

IATF is a professional resource center on Arab citizens of Israel that promotes American Jewish discourse and engagement that is informed by the complex realities and current developments on the ground. Through programs and partnerships with American Jewish leaders, funders, educators, and organizations, IATF supports nuanced and contextualized discourse, impactful philanthropy, and stronger and more robust engagement with Israel.

IATF was created in 2006 by a coalition of major American Jewish organizations and philanthropies as a non-partisan educational resource to convene and raise-awareness among North American Jewish communities about Arab citizens of Israel. A membership organization, IATF quickly grew into a coalition of more than 100 organizations committed to making Arab citizens, one-fifth of Israel's population, a mainstream concern of the North American Jewish community. Learn more at [iataskforce.org](https://iataskforce.org).