

## [fa] The School for Peace in these violent times

Von [Roi Silberberg](#)

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Dear friends,

I am writing these words in the midst of activity, violence, and political uncertainty. In the last week, we at the School for Peace went through the process of realizing our role in these challenging times.

First of all, we are trying to support our staff members, freelancers, and graduates. Several staff members are living in mixed cities or Arab villages in which their neighborhoods were under attacks by right-wing gangs (such as the case of Lod) or by Israeli security forces (As the attack yesterday in Kafr Kana). Also, many of our freelancers and graduates are having their safety compromised, and we try to give our support the best way we can.

In terms of supporting the activism of our graduates these have been a very rich few days. We held three meetings for the leaders in mixed cities graduates group in which there was an opportunity to ventilate their recent difficult experiences and to have concrete support for their actions. The stories shared in those meetings are sad and scary but always conclude with an unwavering understanding of the importance of action in this time.

A photo from today's (15/5) meeting is attached. During these meetings, we understood the importance of having a shared statement. Drafting the statement was a long process (over 48 hours) and in the end, also representatives from the other graduate groups (planners, lawyers, mental health professionals) gave their input. The statement is attached and also [available on Facebook](#). The amount of activism done by our graduates is overwhelming.

In Jaffa, two of our graduates (Rawan Bisharat and Ibrahim Agbaria) co-organized the big demonstration today attended by Jews and Palestinians (picture attached). Another graduate (Nahed Sakis) is a member of the community team that supports the wounded community members. Another graduate (Rachel Hagigi) is an organizer of a "neighborhood watch" which is comprised of Jews living Jaffa.

In Lod, Natali Kirshtein is organizing a shared demonstration tomorrow (16/5) and Yossi Basson together with Akram Sakalla are in the process of organizing a tour in the city by local Jewish and Muslim religious leaders. There are many more projects and initiatives.

One of the things that encouraged me in the last few days is that I heard from several graduates that participating in SFP activities changed their perspective and increased their ability to engage with the deteriorating reality.

I wish you quiet days and hope to update again soon. Roi

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My latest article: "[Legitimising populist education in Israel: The role of religion](#)" in *British Educational Research Journal*