



**CHANGING
JEWISH LIVES**
TRANSFORMING
ISRAELI SOCIETY

2019 IMPACT REPORT



ITIM

The Right To Live Jewish





TO OUR SUPPORTERS WITH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Dear Friends:



As we present this Impact Report, we celebrate a transformative year. In 2019, **ITIM helped more than 7,000 families marry, convert, bury loved ones, and participate in other areas of Jewish life** administered by the Israeli government. **We defended the civil rights, and protected the official Jewish status of more than 100 families.** Through our Giyur K'Halacha Conversion Court Network, **we converted 250 people** to Judaism, giving their lives new meaning, and altering their families' futures for generations to come.

Our dedicated staff assisted people in navigating government bureaucracy, prevailing over discriminatory religious authorities, and benefiting from more inclusive State policies. We remained steadfast in our commitment to solving systemic religion-and-State issues in Israel, while we served as "first responders" to emerging issues and trends affecting Jews everywhere.

You were integral partners in our many successes. **In this Impact Report, discover how your support enabled ITIM to change lives, and to build an inclusive Jewish future for Israel and the entire Jewish world.** Thank you for your continued partnership.

Rabbi Seth Farber, PhD
Founder & Director

ITIM THROUGH THE YEARS

2002

Rabbi Seth Farber founds ITIM

2004

Rabbi Farber appears before Israel's Chief Rabbis to defend a woman's right to a State-sanctioned wedding

2006

Israel's Chief Rabbis invite ITIM to speak at conferences about improving State religious services

2008

ITIM exposes the difficulties immigrants from the former Soviet Union face when trying to prove their Jewish identities
ITIM featured in *The New York Times Magazine*

2010

10,000th person contacts the Assistance Center

2012

ITIM establishes the **Advocacy Center**

2003

ITIM establishes the **Assistance Center**

2005

ITIM creates a **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program** in **10** schools

ITIM produces a website for immigrants from the former Soviet Union

2007

ITIM appears before Israel's Supreme Court to defend a woman's right to convert

Bar/Bat Mitzvah Program expands to **90** schools

2009

Bar/Mitzvah Program reaches **175** schools, and is adopted by the Israel Ministry of Education

2011

ITIM Supreme Court victory requires the State to recognize Orthodox conversions for aliya

2013

ITIM Supreme Court victory enables **50,000** converts to marry in State-sanctioned weddings

2014

30 Knesset Members support ITIM initiatives

ITIM's advocacy work enables **800** families/year to participate in the burial of stillborns

Chief Rabbinate concedes to ITIM pressure to make decision-making processes transparent

2016

ITIM Supreme Court victory ensures privacy for **500,000** mikveh users

ITIM Supreme Court victory requires the State to recognize non-governmental conversions for aliya

ITIM class action suit recoups **10 million** shekels/year in overcharged local religious council fees

2018

500th Giyur K'Halacha conversion

ITIM Supreme Court victory increases public participation in the election of the Chief Rabbinate

ITIM court victory requires the State to recognize Giyur K'Halacha conversions

ITIM court victory paves the way for the appointment of Israel's **first** female legal advisor to a rabbinical court

All **27** female Knesset Members support ITIM initiatives for gender equality in State religious services

Rabbi Farber wins the Ministry of Aliya Award for Outstanding Contribution to Israeli Society

2015

ITIM establishes the **Giyur K'Halacha Conversion Court Network**

25,000th person contacts the Assistance Center

ITIM founds the Knesset Caucus for Peoplehood, Religion & State

Rabbi Farber wins the Nefesh B'Nefesh Bonei Zion Prize

2017

Advocacy Center represents **500th** family

ITIM exposes the Rabbinate's rejection of the religious authority of non-Israeli rabbis

ITIM leads an effort that blocks the Knesset's discriminatory Conversion Bill



2019

ITIM establishes the **Public Policy Center**

40,000th person contacts the Assistance Center

ITIM exposes the Rabbinate's use of DNA testing to prove Jewish identity

ITIM successfully advocates for the allocation of public funds to make mikvehs accessible to the disabled

26 Staff members

60 Giyur K'Halacha rabbis



MISSION

ITIM works to increase participation in Jewish life by making Israel's religious establishment respectful of and responsive to the diverse Jewish needs of the Jewish people.

GOALS

Ensure equal access to State religious services

Moderate the State's extreme interpretations of Jewish law

Protect civil rights in matters of State-administered Jewish life

Improve government transparency and accountability in matters of Jewish life

Bridge the divide between Jewish life in Israel and around the world

STRATEGIES

Work with Israel's religious establishment to facilitate participation in Jewish life

Advocate for public policies that strengthen Jewish life, and against those that weaken it

Legally challenge State authorities to protect civil rights, and to ensure equality under the law

Offer alternatives to government programs to meet the needs of the broad Jewish public

Increase public demand for change on religion-and-State issues

PROGRAMS

ITIM Assistance Center

ITIM Public Policy Center

ITIM Legal Center

Giyur K'Halacha Conversion Court Network

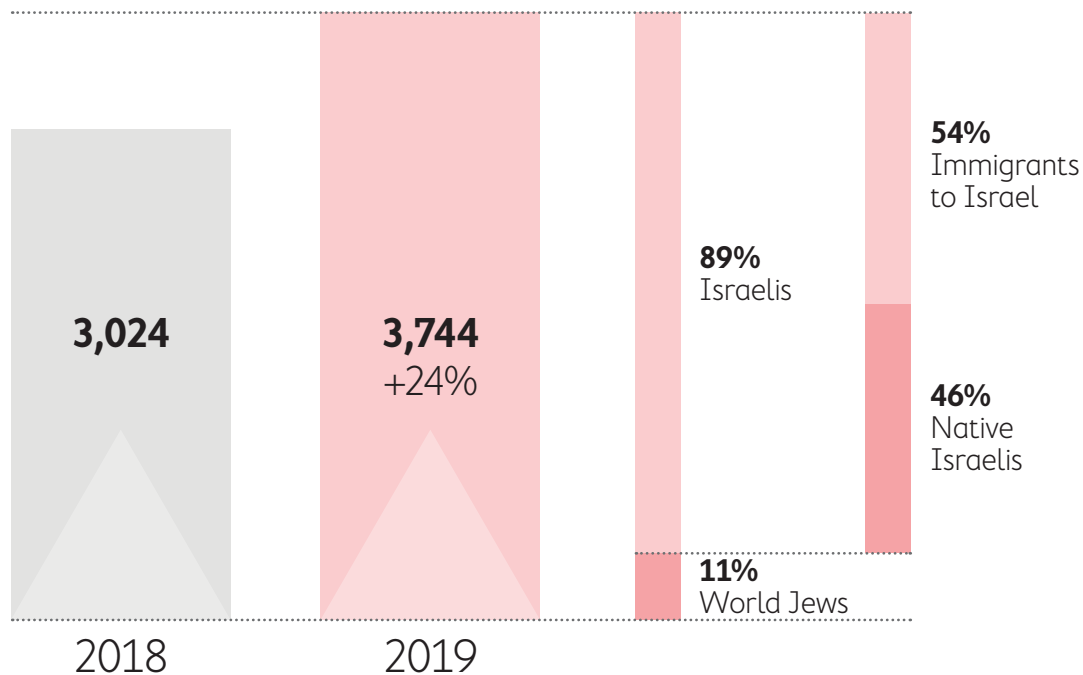
Marketing & Communications

ITIM ASSISTANCE CENTER

The ITIM Assistance Center is **the** address for solving practical issues of religion-and-State in Israel. Through free phone and texting hotlines, the Center provides information, guidance, and support on every government-administered matter of Jewish life. Center staff troubleshoot cases with social welfare organizations and government authorities, solve complex issues of personal status, accompany families to State agencies, and represent them before rabbinical courts.

In 2019, the Center helped 3,744 families navigate the State's religious bureaucracy, enabling them to be recognized as Jews, to have State-sanctioned weddings, to convert to Judaism, and more.

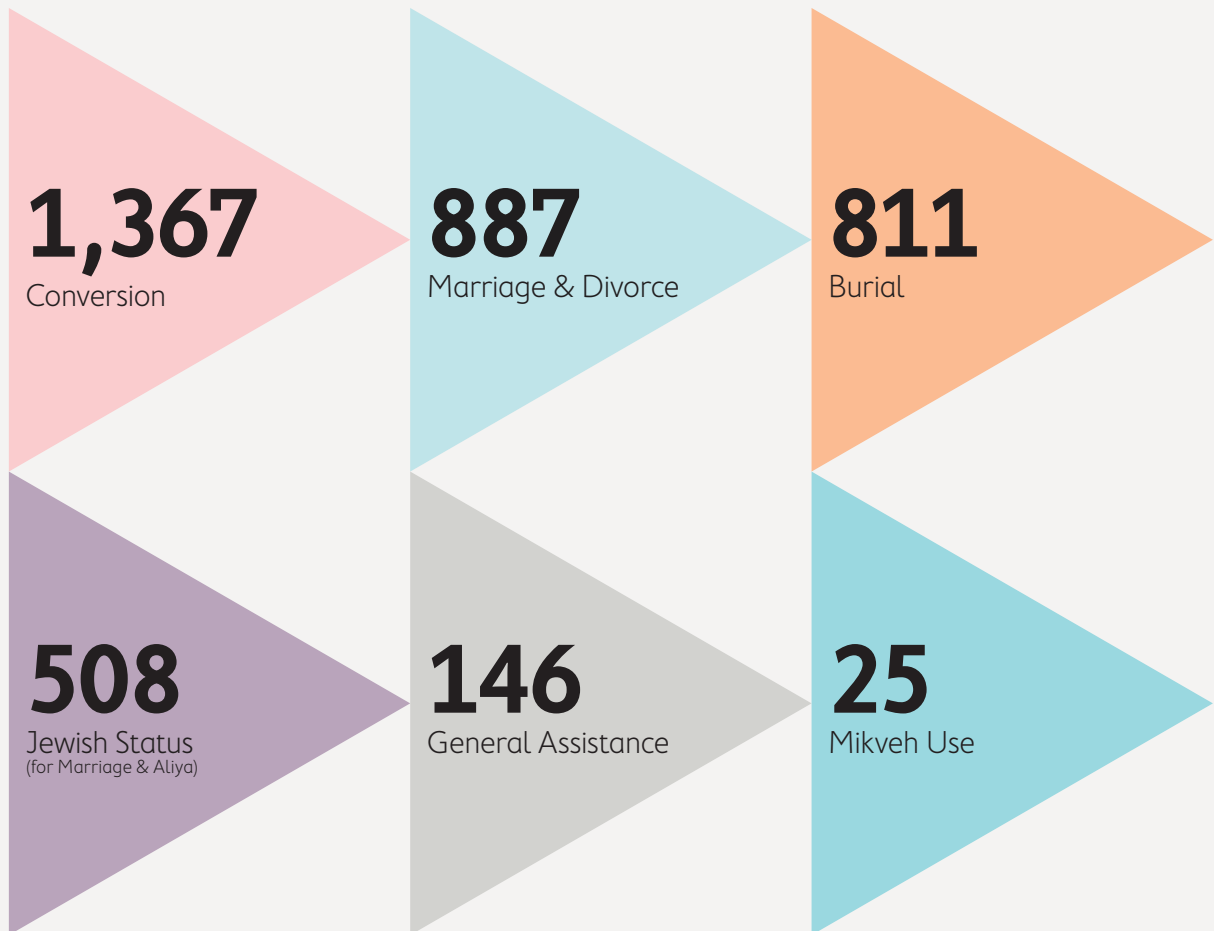
FAMILIES HELPED



Oleg contacted the ITIM Assistance Center when a State rabbinical court required him to take a DNA test to prove his Jewish identity before it would issue a marriage license. We represented him before the State Supreme Rabbinical Court, which determined that Oleg's Jewish identity, and that of his extended family, should be recognized without DNA testing.

ITIM ASSISTANCE CENTER

AREAS OF HELP



"ITIM's warm, embracing approach enabled my son and daughter-in-law to have a State-approved Jewish wedding, and to set up a Jewish home in Israel. Without ITIM, it simply would not have happened."

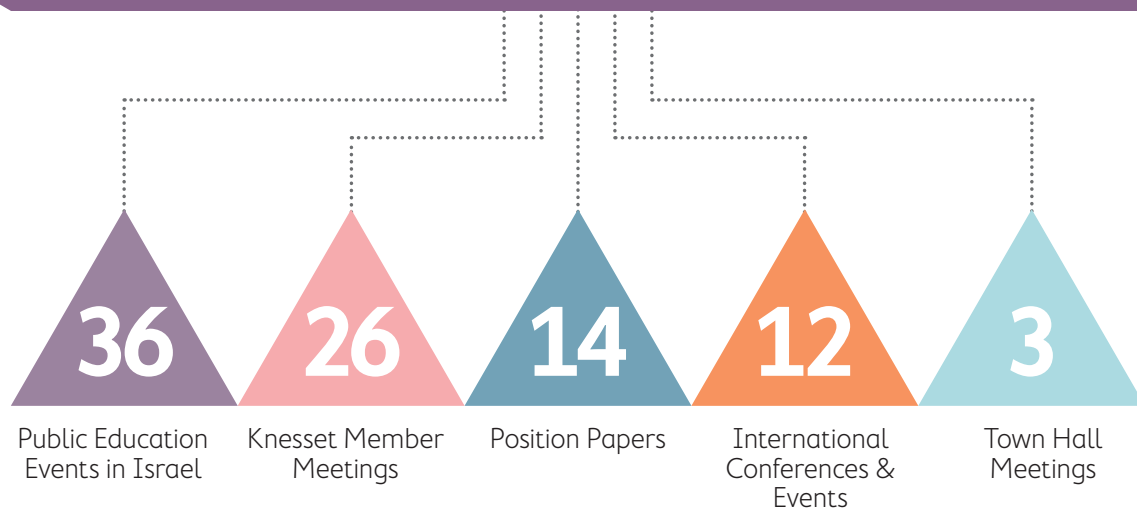
ITIM Assistance Center Hotline Caller



ITIM PUBLIC POLICY CENTER

The ITIM Public Policy Center promotes policy reform in State-administered matters of Jewish life. The Center monitors public policies and procedures, exposes discriminatory practices, participates in Knesset hearings, prepares position papers, and offers public education programs.

In 2019, the Center successfully advocated for the State to allocate funds to make public mikvehs accessible to the disabled, and for local burial societies to make their fee structures transparent. It organized town hall meetings with leading political candidates, and ran lecture series that helped put religion-and-State issues at the top of the public agenda.



Maxim Dinshtein Photography



ITIM Director, Rabbi Seth Farber, interviewed Knesset Member Avigdor Lieberman at an ITIM town hall meeting, Israel's most prominent public event on religion-and-State issues of the election season.

ITIM PUBLIC POLICY CENTER



ITIM organized a public education event in Jerusalem about Israel's Marriage Law, a holdover from the Ottoman Empire, on the 100th anniversary of the law's passage.



"ITIM is leading the movement for social and political change on religion-and-State issues in Israel. Its work is indispensable."

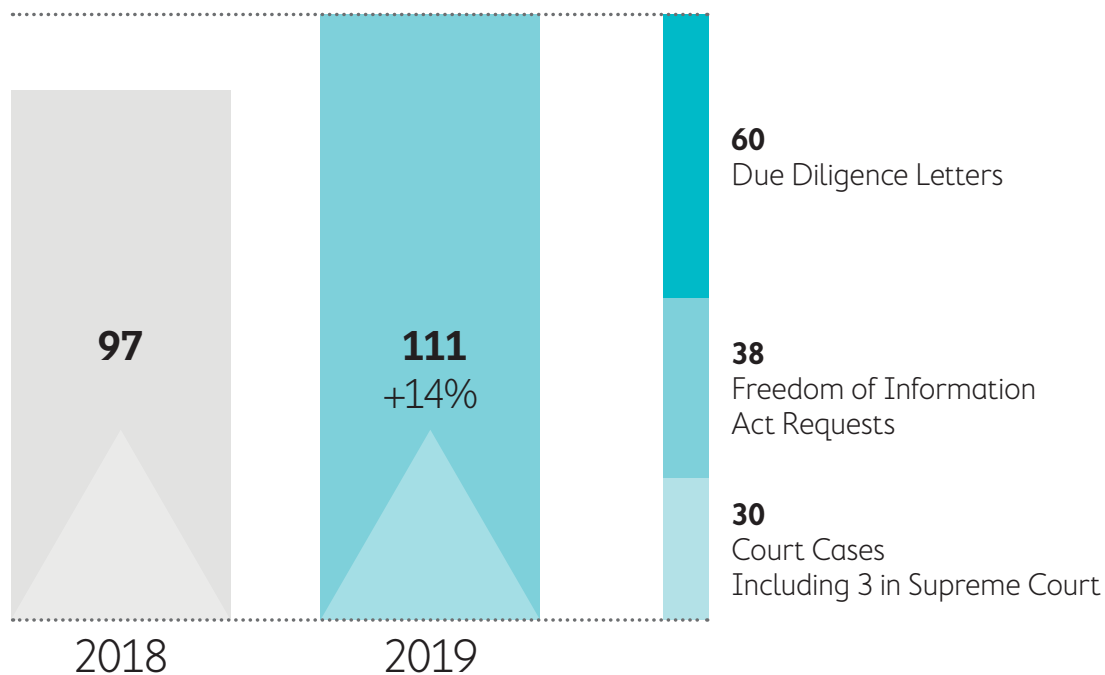
Aliza Lavie
Knesset Member

ITIM LEGAL CENTER

The ITIM Legal Center takes legal action on religion-and-State issues affecting Jewish life to protect citizens' civil rights, promote Jewish pluralism, and ensure equal access to State religious services.

In 2019, the Center won two Supreme Court cases that required the State to reinstate citizens' official Jewish status, negotiated the reinstatement of Barkan Winery employees demoted because of their Ethiopian ethnicity and prevented from coming into contact with kosher wine, and succeeded in requiring the Rabbinate to reduce its list of citizens whose Jewish identities it questions by 25%, and to release its criteria for recognizing the authority of non-Israeli rabbis.

FAMILIES REPRESENTED



"ITIM was like an older brother that supported and helped us through every stage, every situation, night and day... We won't forget them."

Yosef Baruch
Plaintiff in Case against
Barkan Winery

ITIM LEGAL CENTER



The ITIM Legal Center brought a class action suit before Israel's Supreme Court on behalf of a group of women prevented by the Chief Rabbinate from taking State exams that certify proficiency in Jewish law.



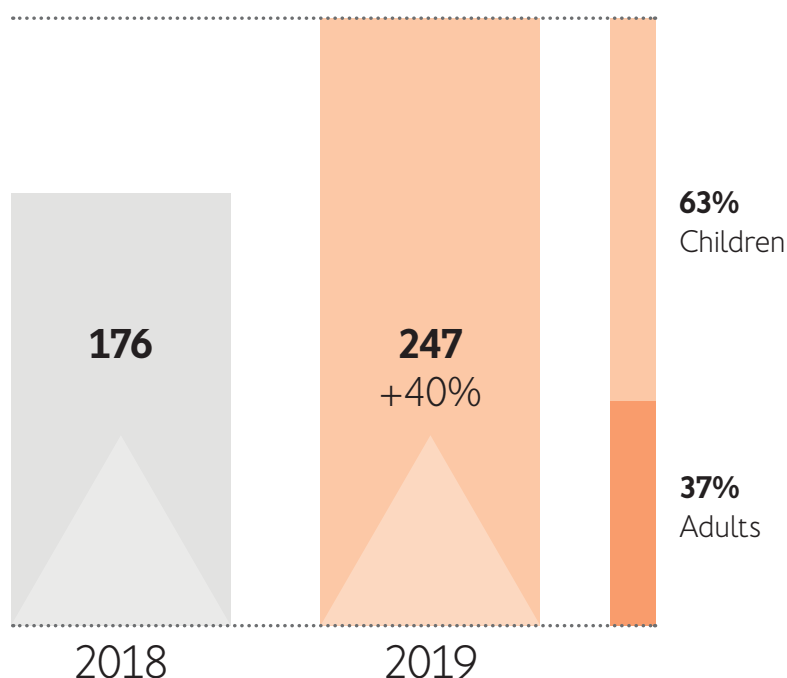
GIYUR K'HALACHA

CONVERSION COURT NETWORK

Giyur K'Halacha offers Israeli citizens an inclusive, supportive, Orthodox conversion alternative to the State conversion program. Staff assist candidates from initial inquiries to educational programs, conversion court hearings, and beyond.

Thanks to new advertising and retention initiatives, more people contacted Giyur K'Halacha and completed the conversion process than in any previous year.

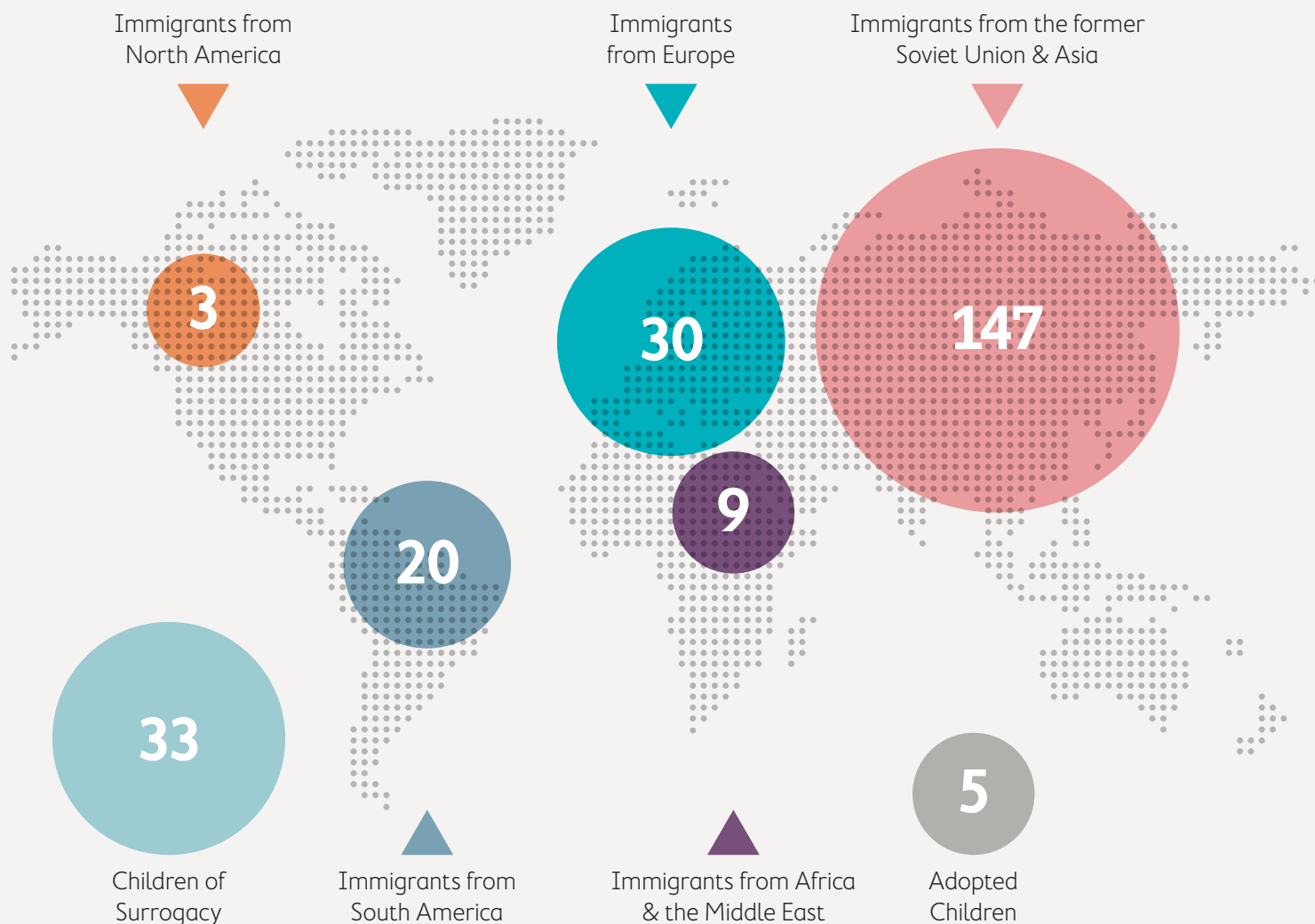
CONVERSIONS



A Giyur K'Halacha Conversion Court oversaw the conversion of Orly, Michael, and their two sons, who had been denied conversion by the State, because one of the boys was enrolled in a non-religious special needs school.

GIYUR K'HALACHA

CONVERSION COURT NETWORK

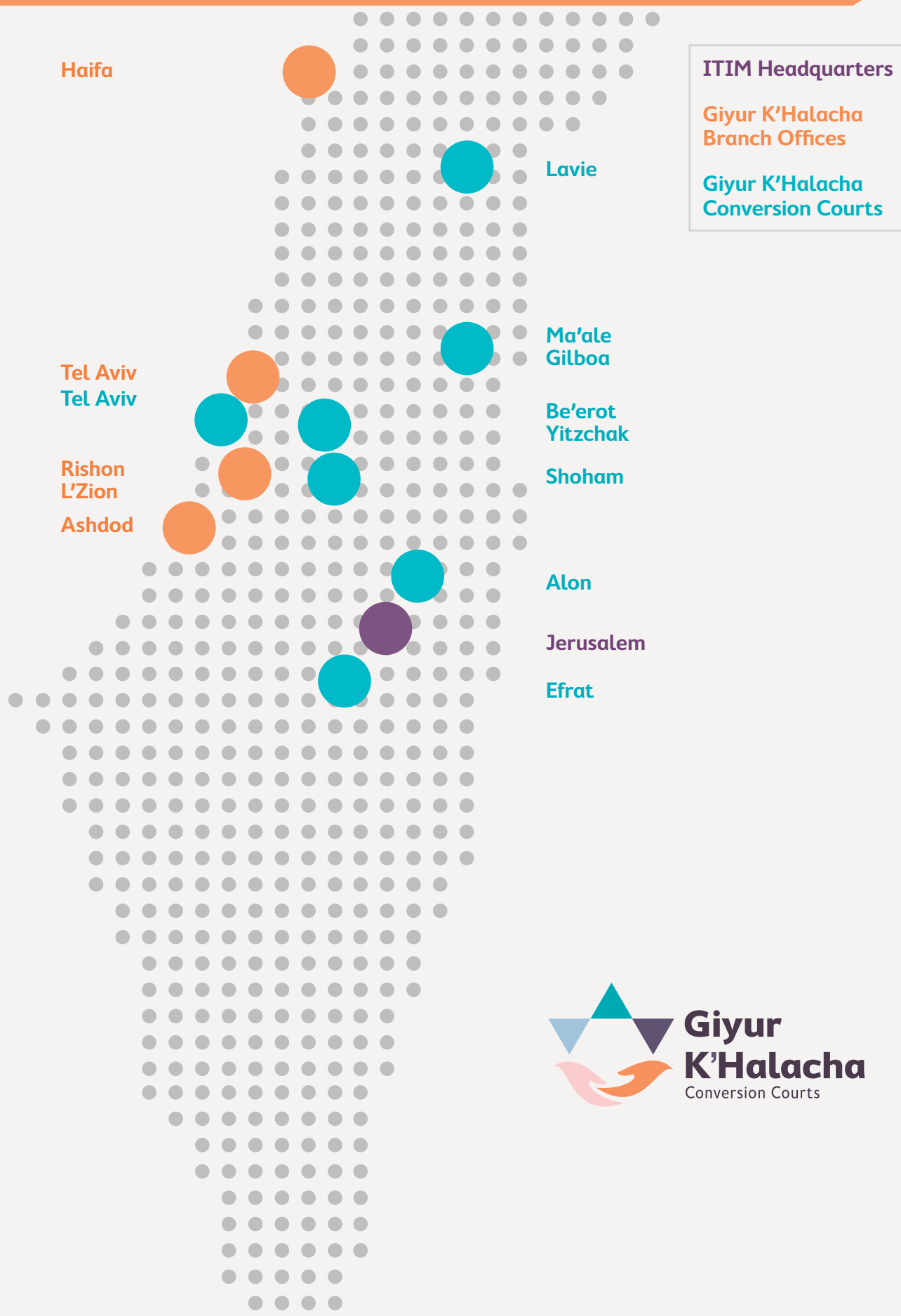


"Because of you, we now have a Jewish home, homeland, and family. Thank you for all the happiness."

Tzipora & Moshe Faitelson and family, Israelis converted through Giyur K'Halacha

GIYUR K'HALACHA

CONVERSION COURT NETWORK



MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS



Rabbi Farber appeared on several TV news programs to discuss State investigations into citizens' Jewish identities.

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE MEDIA ATTENTION

BBC
RADIO

theguardian

THE JC
THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

The ^{NEW YORK} Jewish Week

RNS
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

JTA

Forward

i24
NEWS

ARUTZ SHEVA 7
israelnationalnews.com

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

THE JERUSALEM POST

The Jerusalem
Report

y net
news.com

HAARETZ

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS

1,199,319 ▲ +26%

Website Page Views

448,334 ▲ +18%

Website Unique Users

55,466 ▲ +9%

Facebook Likes

20,006 ▲ +6%

News Alert Subscribers

487

Articles, Interviews &
Opinion Pieces

3

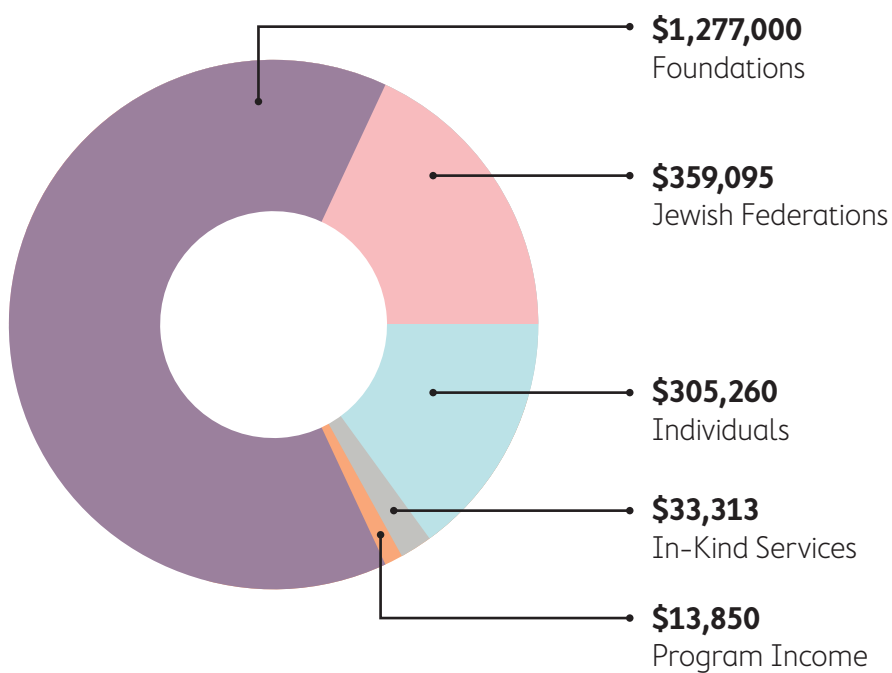
Website Languages
Hebrew, English & Russian

2

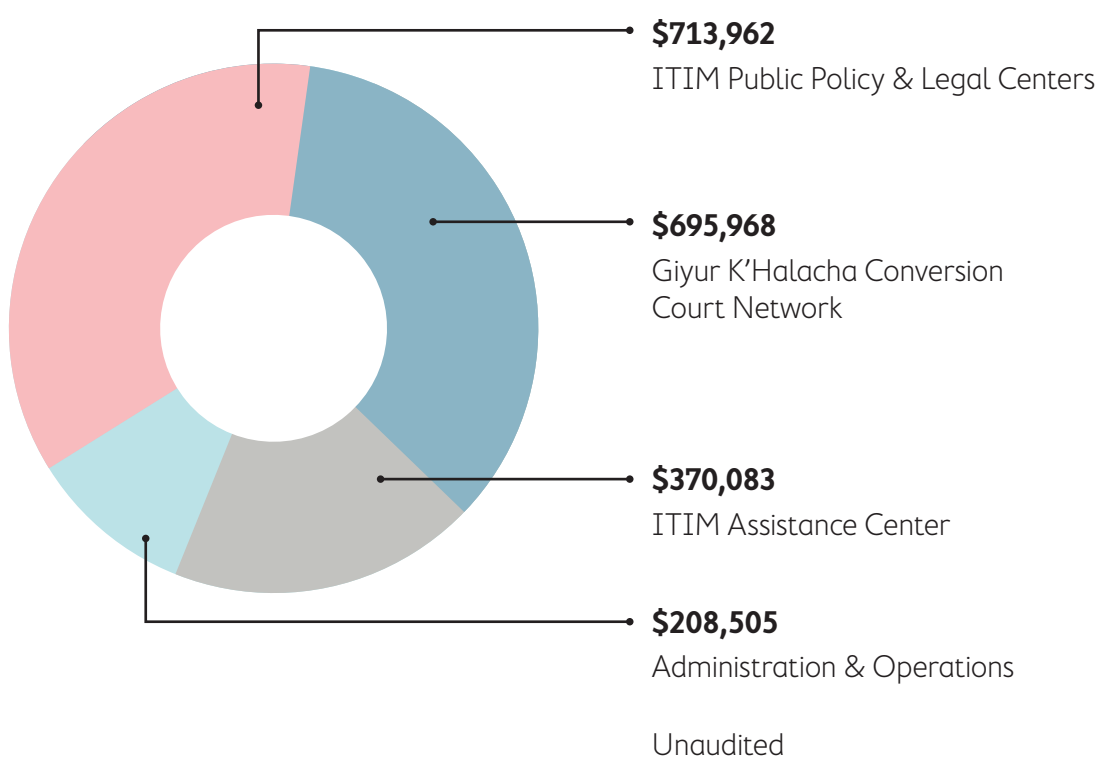
New Website Designs
itim.org.il | giyur.org.il

FINANCES

REVENUE - \$1,988,518



EXPENSES - \$1,988,518



Supporters

Foundations

Arev Fund

New York, NY

Aviv Foundation

Washington, DC

Azrieli Foundation Israel

Herzliya Pituach

Beverly Foundation

Minneapolis, MN

Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation

Tulsa, OK

David Berg Foundation

New York, NY

Jacob and Hilda Blaustein Foundation

Baltimore, MD

The Russell Berrie Foundation

Teaneck, NJ

Anonymous donors

Jewish Federations

Greater Miami Jewish Federation

Jewish Community Federation of San
Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma
Counties

Jewish Federation of Greater Kansas City

Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles

Jewish Federation of St. Louis

Jewish Federations of Canada-UJA

Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago

UJA-Federation of New York

Leadership

ITIM Israel

Steering Committee

Mark Ziering, Chairman

CreditEase

Nehemia Davidi

Real Estate Development

Adina Hagege

Microsoft

Asher Levy

Landa Digital Printing

Jack Levy

Israel Cleantech Ventures

Avraham Well

FBC Law Firm

American Friends of ITIM

Board of Directors

Steven Pretsfelder, Chairman

Van Wagner Sports & Entertainment

Daniel Conway

Seagram Real Estate

Susan Fader

Fader Consulting

Tovit Schultz Granoff

Social Activism

William Lipsey

Pzena Capital

David Sable

WPP

Staff

Founder & Director

Rabbi Seth Farber, PhD

Managing Director

Elad Caplan

Finance & Operations

Sarah Cramer, Vice President

Michelle Cohen

Hila David

Marketing & Communications

Einat Levin, Director

Sheryl Abbey

Rachel Deutsch

ITIM Assistance Center

Yoni Yentus, Manager

Miriam Aloni

Jenny Brenner

Michal Kozlova

ITIM Public Policy Center

Ariel Moav, Manager

Yoel Botvinik

Ayala Goldberg

Orly Uliel

ITIM Legal Center

Ella Sakat, Manager

Reut Kleinberger

Shira Lev-Tzion

Yair Mevorach-Sha'ag

Sara Weinberg

Giyur K'Halacha Conversion Court Network

Yael Belenky, Manager

Tamar Gross

Gilad Prins

Dana Raevsky

Yifat Shamula

Haya Sharon

Menahem Yosefi



"By fighting for an inclusive religious establishment in Israel, ITIM is shaping a vibrant Jewish future for us all. That is why I not only invest money in ITIM, I invest myself."

David Sable

Author, Entrepreneur & Social Activist

Board Member, American Friends of ITIM



ITIM

The Right To Live Jewish

PO Box 45435
Jerusalem, Israel 91451
ITIM Assistance Center Hotline
*8083 (in Israel)
+972-2-648-2205 (outside Israel)

American Friends of ITIM
c/o KJ Technology
247 West 36th Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10018

itim.org.il