

ACUPUNCTURISTS WITHOUT BORDERS

MEDICINE OF PEACE IN ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK

SUMMER 2018



Left: Practitioner trainings in Israel; Right: AWB mobile clinic practitioners and participants in the West Bank

Acupuncturists Without Borders (AWB) has been providing trauma healing acupuncture services in Israel and the West Bank for the past four years. *The one thing that all people in this land share is trauma*, from war, displacement, dispossession of land, and violent persecution. We believe that unresolved trauma is often passed from generation to generation, and is an obstacle to individual, community and national wellbeing. Trauma keeps fear alive and prevents human contact, diminishing the chances for co-existence and peace. Most people we work with in Israel say theirs is a "PTSD" country. Palestinians say the same.

Acupuncture helps prevent and resolve trauma by "resetting" the nervous system, enabling us to move beyond fear, to think rationally and cooperatively. AWB offers acupuncture treatment to **everyone** regardless of tribal, religious or political affiliation. Our work is apolitical and

inclusive, fulfilling a challenging mission given that everything in this region is politically and emotionally charged. We call this the MEDICINE OF PEACE.

Since 2014, AWB has

- **trained over 120 Jewish and Arab-Israeli acupuncturists** and medical workers
- **helped develop AWB Israel** as a non-profit organization, dedicated to providing treatment, training and education to Israelis and Palestinians about the benefits of trauma healing
- **provided over 10,000 treatments** in Palestinian villages, Jewish settlements, for displaced Sudanese refugees, for Holocaust survivors, and Israeli soldiers

Here's what AWB's been doing this summer...

In July 2018, AWB offered its first dedicated training for Palestinian health practitioners in the West Bank. This training was the first of its kind in Palestine.

AWB offered training to 10 physicians, nurses, physical therapists and mental health professionals who work with highly traumatized communities in the West Bank. The training took place in Beit Jala, where Israelis and Palestinians can meet without security permit restrictions, and was offered in Arabic and English by a team of Arab-Israeli acupuncturists, translators and AWB (USA) staff. Trainees have started to offer treatments in West Bank clinics and are already participating in AWB mobile clinics in the West Bank under the auspices of Physicians for human Rights.



AWB training in Beit Jala, July 2018

Here's what's coming up in 2018-19:

- **Training for acupuncturists and massage therapists in Israel-October 13-15, 2018**
- **World Healing Exchange trip to Israel-West Bank - March 2019**
- **Advanced training for Palestinian health workers in the West Bank, March 7-9, 2019**

Please support AWB's *Medicine of Peace* work in Israel and the West Bank by donating at: <http://www.acuwithoutborders.org/donate/>