

Updates for the period June 2025

Dear Partners and Friends,

We're excited to share with you our Mid-Year 2025 Update on the work of Ruach Nashit – Women's Spirit.

Over the past decade, we've had to navigate a series of national crises. In each one, the pattern is painfully clear: a direct link between national distress and a rise in intimate partner violence.

The beginning of 2025 was marked by a sense of stabilization, as we all sadly adjusted to the ongoing wartime reality.

With the outbreak of a new front against Iran, we once again shifted into emergency mode, something we, unfortunately, know how to do well.

From north to south, our program directors quickly reached out to every participant, checking in, identifying urgent needs, and adjusting both group and individual plans to fit the new reality.

In these difficult times, we're seeing just how much the women have internalized and applied what they've learned. The skills, confidence, and resilience built over months of steady work are now helping them navigate yet another layer of crisis. **It's a powerful reminder that even in the hardest moments, our work - and theirs-makes a real difference.**

We've also seen the impact of our long-term advocacy work. These efforts have borne fruit in multiple areas, including stricter oversight of gun distribution, expanded eligibility for public housing for survivors of abuse, and progress in our collaboration with the Israeli Banking Association and the Bank of Israel. This month, we are launching a new online training module for bank employees, developed jointly, on identifying economic abuse among customers.

As the recipient of the 2024 President's Award for Volunteerism – recognizing our unique contribution to strengthening the civil front – we remain steadfast in our mission to amplify the voices of women survivors of abuse. Always.

Violence against women is never a side issue. It's always relevant. And we will not allow it to be pushed aside.

Today, fear isn't just about sirens or missiles from Iran.

Survivors of abuse live in a state of constant fear – trapped in violent relationships, and now more confined to their homes than ever.



This is the moment to pay attention.

Be alert to what's happening around us – to our neighbors, our colleagues, our friends.

And if you're reading this and something resonates – if you feel this was written for you – please don't hesitate to reach out to one of the helplines.

Even now. Especially now.

A must-read article written by Tamar Schwartz, CEO of the Women's Spirit Association, and published on the YNET website. [click here](#)

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>> Can Your Employee Count on You?

In honor of International Women's Day, we hosted a conference for HR managers. We focused on creating a safe work environment for women survivors of abuse. During the conference, we presented employers and professionals with real-world case studies and coping strategies, alongside practical tools for identification and support. We also provided crucial background information on financial abuse and its various manifestations.



Career Opportunities

Career Opportunities for Women's Spirit's Participants

We kicked off the first half of 2025 with a host of cutting-edge training programs tailored for our participants. These programs are all designed to open doors to rewarding employment and equip them with essential up-to-date career tools and skills. Among them, we held a digital marketing workshop for self-employed business owners, a Hebrew course for Arabic-speaking participants, budget management workshops, a Capoeira workshop, and more.



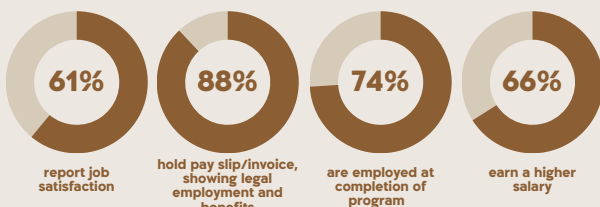
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Research and Evaluation Continues

Women's Spirit continues to measure our participants' outcomes as they progress toward financial independence and stability. We consistently monitor both quantitative and qualitative metrics over time to ensure the changes our participants achieve are lasting, stable, and sustained.

Research Study 2024–2025

At Program Conclusion



Three Years Post



Beyond the Numbers: Measuring Success

We don't just look at hard numbers. We pay attention to the personal growth of our participants. Things like how well they manage their finances, their ability to handle change, build strong relationships at work, and even write a great resume. We track how they cope with tough times, and much more. Why? Because these 'soft' skills are just as important as the numbers. They show us the real impact of our work. We see positive changes across the board! This confirms that our long-term, intensive approach works. We build resilience, form supportive connections, and ensure that they get back on their feet professionally and financially. Women's Spirit is about lasting success.

Photo exhibition

In the Beginning God Created

A Unique Photography Exhibition

Women's Spirit hosted a unique photography exhibition, spearheaded by staff and students from our Southern Branch, in collaboration with the Department of Social Work at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. For ten weeks, workshop our participants embarked on a journey of creativity and introspection, all while acquiring tools and skills from the world of photography. This journey culminated in an exhibition showcased at "Tzalmania" House <https://tzalmania.co.il/> in Be'er Sheva in May.



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Appreciation evening

Celebrating Our Volunteers and Partners "and Presentation of The Katan Award"

In June, we once again brought together our invaluable volunteers and dedicated partners for an evening celebrating their immense contributions to our participants' journey of rehabilitation. This special event also featured our biennial "Katan Award" presentation, named in honor of the late Professor Yossi Katan. This year, the prestigious award was presented to Professor Yifat Bitton, President of the Council of Colleges, in recognition of her tireless work for gender equality.

"Katan Award" honors the late Professor Yossi Katan, who brilliantly combined a groundbreaking academic career in social work and social policy with deep social and gender activism in Israel. An unwavering advocate for social justice, Professor Katan inspired many. After his passing in March 2012, his children and partner Nily, together with Women's Spirit (an organization he helped establish), decided to preserve his legacy. They created this award to recognize academics who, alongside their scholarly work, demonstrate dedicated commitment to gender social work. The award's purpose is to champion the voluntary social involvement of academic researchers, thereby contributing to the advancement of social and gender justice.



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CEO Attends Conferences in New York

CEO, Tamar Schwartz, recently led a panel discussion at the New York Federation's "Safe Homes, Safe Spaces" conference. She shared insights with the American community on addressing domestic abuse, and discussed the significant impact of the Iron Swords War on women in Israel, particularly highlighting the often-unacknowledged challenges faced on the home front. Additionally, Tamar delivered a lecture at Hadassah Foundation conference, which was broadcast to audiences in several countries globally.



Career Opportunities

Raising Awareness Among Professionals

We've intensified our efforts to raise awareness about financial abuse through a series of lectures. Among others, we delivered a lecture to police investigators specializing in domestic abuse spoke to the team responsible for insolvency and enforcement, and participated in a major conference hosted by the Israeli Bar Association in Eilat, which focused on financial abuse and its manifestations.

No Implementation – No Change

As a leading organization driving the implementation of the "Banking Accessibility Charter," we remain engaged in integrating it into the operations of professional organizations, even years after its creation. We regularly train representatives from domestic violence prevention centers, empowering them to guide the women in their care to utilize the Charter for debt restructuring and reduction.

On a related note, the **e-learning module for bank employees on identifying financial abuse** is rolling out now, a charter we helped initiate and write.

Our work in policy promotion and legislative change is truly a long-distance race. We heartily congratulate the Association of Banks and banking supervision, our valued and long-standing partners, on the successful launch of this e-learning module. We will continue our efforts to ensure its complete integration into the banks' everyday operations.

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A Convicted Sex Offender at a State Ceremony? Not on Our Watch!

In May, we joined a petition opposing the participation of convicted sex offender Rabbi Eliezer Berland in the official bonfire lighting ceremony at Mount Meron on Lag B'Omer. Alongside the Movement for Quality Government and the Coalition of Women's Organizations, we firmly believed that there was no place for a convicted sex offender and leader of the "Shuvu Banim" community to be given a platform at a state ceremony.

אירוע הטריזיה

Promoting the Law for Weapons Distribution Control



We were very pleased by the National Security Committee's approval of a bill in its second and third readings. This legislation expands social workers' reporting duties regarding firearm license applicants when they pose a risk to themselves or others. It's important to remember that our CEO, highlighted the dangers of the existing gun licensing process back in 2018. Uncontrolled firearm proliferation inevitably leads to increased domestic violence and undermines public and private safety.



?Did You Know

We're pleased to announce a new digital project! Each month, we'll be sharing a valuable tip focused on claiming rights – vital information for women survivors of abuse. This project is part of "Accounted for," an initiative designed to provide our participants with an easy way to understand all the benefits they are entitled to from relevant government ministries, and exactly how to access them.

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"TRIVIA"

Game of brains- fourth year!

In May, we once again hosted our annual TRIVA event, which has become a tradition, led by "The Chaser," Itai Hermann. This year we dedicated the event in the memory of Ayelet Arnin, a young and promising journalist that identified with the values of Women's Spirit. Ayelet was murdered during the Nova Festival at Oct the 7th 2023. Thirteen leading businesses from across Israel gathered to compete for the title of "Smartest Company." This year, "Max" company took home first place!



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Igul L'Tova – Round Up

We invite you to "Round Up" for good for Women's Spirit- your small change can make a difference with the click of a button. [click here](#) or scan the QR Code.



"Book Launce – "Recipes from Home

We're excited to report on a successful collaboration with Oshik Feller, author of the "Recipes from Home" cookbook! She has generously decided to dedicate all proceeds from her book's sales to Women's Spirit. Many influencers and leading chefs in Israel have joined the effort, recommending the book across their social media channels.

We invite you to purchase a copy and support Women's Spirit's vital work. [click here](#) or scan the QR Code.

