

Impact Update: Special Populations LGBTQ+

Jewish Federations support organizations that are providing care and community to LGBTQ+ Israelis struggling with the trauma and ongoing loss of October 7. Many LGBTQ+ people in Israel face vulnerabilities and isolation from family and community support networks. They may also be less comfortable accessing support from state institutions. In this difficult time, Jerusalem Open House is facilitating emergency mental health care, while Israeli Gay Youth is helping vulnerable LGBTQ+ teens and young adults. Ma'avarim is assisting trans and gender diverse individuals.

Through these organizations, Jewish Federations are reaching across oceans to express concern and solidarity to LGBTQ+ Israelis in their time of need.

- [Jerusalem Open House](#) - Leading Israeli LGBTQ+ non-profit organizations, including The Aguda, IGY, Havruta, Bat Kol, Hoshen, The Gila Project, and Ma'avarim, have joined together and entrusted the Jerusalem Open House to head the establishment of a national emergency mental health support system. Dozens of psychologists and social workers have been enlisted to provide a nationwide response to trauma, loss, and other challenges that LGBTQ+ Israelis are facing during the war.
- [IGY \(Israeli Gay Youth\)](#) - IGY has been operating since 2002 as a movement for LGBTQ+ young people (12-23 years old). The organization has 4,000 youth participants and 400 volunteers. IGY works to empower LGBTQ+ young people by creating meaningful social spaces and encouraging them to take part in shaping the community and Israeli society. IGY is strengthening its groups in affected cities in southern Israel and providing assistance to their most vulnerable members during the war.
- [Ma'avarim - Israeli Trans Community](#) - Ma'avarim is collaborating with the other two leading trans-led NGOs in Israel, the Gila Project and Trans Israel, to provide a social care and emergency welfare response for this marginalized and highly vulnerable population. The NGOs are working through Ma'avarim's Social Care Center for trans and gender diverse individuals, which was established in 2020 with the Ministry of Welfare and providing special assistance to Russian-speaking and Arabic-speaking trans individuals in partnership with the Jerusalem Open House.

Jewish Federations are proud of the impact we've achieved to date.

- To date Jewish Federations have allocated to 3 organizations which include collaborative coalitions of non-profits serving the LGBTQ+ community.
- \$277,800 of Federation's collective funds, augmented by additional communal support, has been allocated so far to these 3 organizations.

[Read this story for insights into the impact of our collective work.](#)



IGY's Marsha College cooperative self-care salon

Itai (not his real name), a transgender man on the autistic spectrum, is a recent graduate of Marsha College, Israel Gay Youth (IGY)'s vocational college. Until the war Itai had put his vocational training to good use as a nail artist. But since October 7th he has refrained from leaving his house out of fear for his personal security. Itai was hurt financially due to lack of customers and in addition some of his strongest social support frameworks have stopped operating because of the war.

Like many LGBTQ+ individuals, Itai hesitates to access services through state institutions, especially during periods of turmoil, and IGY understood he would be better served in specialized frameworks.



IGY staff reached out to Itai, and he started meeting with a social worker they provided. During the first two weeks of the war, they gave him food packages so he didn't have to worry about where and when to buy groceries. IGY also opened their cooperative self-care salon inside the college's campus so Itai and others can access a safe space 3 times a week and he is using the opportunity to rebuild his customer base. As the days go by, Itai is slowly starting to recover his daily routine and business.

