

Message from the President



Dear ICJW members,

This edition of ICJW E-LINKS sums up information from the survey conducted earlier this year, thus providing an interesting synopsis of the current community service work of ICJW affiliate organisations.

I thank Community Services Chair Judy Lever and Vice Chair Clarita Spitz for their research and on-going work in providing the platform for us all to learn about the overall contribution made by ICJW affiliates to their Jewish and general communities.

In my visits to ICJW organisations around the world, I am always impressed and often amazed at the quality of communal support programs. Much of this work serves a double purpose as a public relations tool in the affiliate's community.

I congratulate all those affiliate organisations listed below on their continued communal contribution within their countries. Keep up the good work! ICJW is very proud of you all.

Best wishes



Robyn Lenn OAM
ICJW President

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Introduction from the Editors

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

You will see below a report and results from the recent Affiliate Survey to which so many of you contributed.

We set up the survey to find out about all the work you are currently undertaking, and also to learn about the environment in which you are operating. We felt it would be useful to have all this information in one place. We hope that it will be useful to you when you are asked by those beyond our wonderful organisation: “What does ICJW do?” and “Are you truly international?”

The results do not quantify the many hours of community service work undertaken by our worldwide membership. Nor can the responses truly represent the influence of our activism, and our participation in global and regional organisations.

Thank you for your replies and information.
Warmest Chanukah wishes to you all,

Judy Lever and Clarita Spitz,
ICJW Community Services Coordinators

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Affiliate Survey – Executive Summary

The Affiliates Survey was sent out electronically to 34 affiliates and 30 replied, representing 88% of ICJW's affiliates. As can be seen from the list on page 5, the sizes of our affiliates varies enormously – from 15 members to 1 million in Israel, 40,000 in the United States, and 2,000 in the UK. These figures are in line with the distribution of Jewish population around the world.

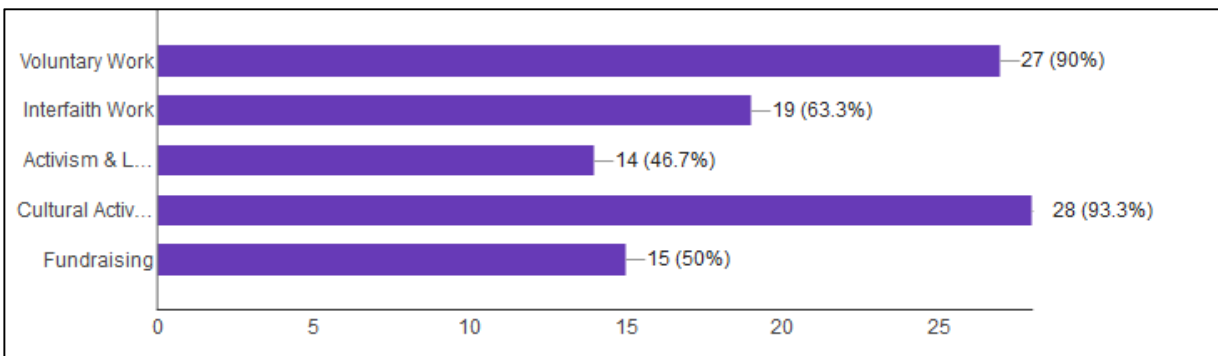
- Leaving aside Israel, ICJW can claim to represent **more than 1 million women** in the Jewish diaspora.
- **3** of the 30 responding Affiliates described themselves as Umbrella Organizations, meaning that their various constituent organizations are involved in different activities.
- **90%** of the Affiliates are involved in Voluntary Work, with the highest proportion (84%) working with elderly people in the Jewish community.
- **27** of the 30 Affiliates reported that they work **outside the Jewish community**. Their voluntary work in the non-Jewish community is carried out mostly with children and young people (69%) and the elderly (58%). 2 of these affiliates volunteer exclusively outside the Jewish community.
- **15** Affiliates report that they offer training to their volunteers (50%).
- **9** Affiliates receive statutory (governmental) or other **external funding**.
- **7** Affiliates said that their voluntary work is affected by **regulations** such as criminal record checks. Only 2 of these are organizations that receive external funding.
- **23** of the 30 Affiliates reported being involved in **interfaith work**, with **17 (74%)** of these interacting with Moslem groups.
- In their **lobbying activities**, 22 Affiliates are active in Women's Rights and Family Issues, 17 on Environmental & Health issues, 16 are involved in Support for Israel /Anti-BDS Campaigning, and 11 are involved actively in campaigning for Agunot. 3 Affiliates are not activist.
- In their **cultural activities**, most of the Affiliates are involved in Arts & Culture, Jewish Education activities, and Jewish festival celebrations. Others are involved in health and general education.
- **19** Affiliates (63%) report that their members **fundraise** for their own organization.
- Of the **21** Affiliates who are involved in fundraising for other organizations or projects, the highest proportion of Affiliates (81%) raise funds for **local Jewish community projects**. 13 of them (43%) fundraise for **local women's and children's projects**.
- **11** of the 30 Affiliates (37%) reported that they raise money for **charities in Israel** – either Women's & Children's Charities or Other Charities or both.

Read on for the full results of the survey and the list of participating affiliates.

Affiliate Activities – Overview

1. Which of the following types of Projects is your Affiliate involved with? (30 responses)

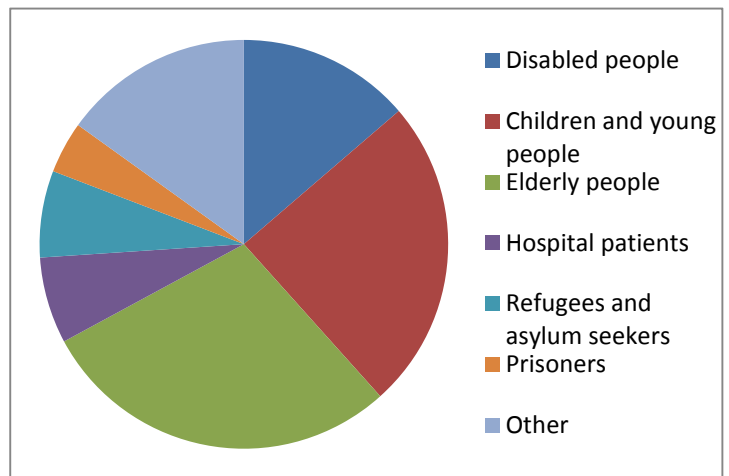
| | <i>Number of Affiliates</i> | <i>Percentage</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Voluntary Work | 27 | 90% |
| Interfaith Work | 19 | 63% |
| Activism & Lobbying | 14 | 47% |
| Cultural Activities | 28 | 93% |
| Fundraising | 15 | 50% |



Affiliate Voluntary Work

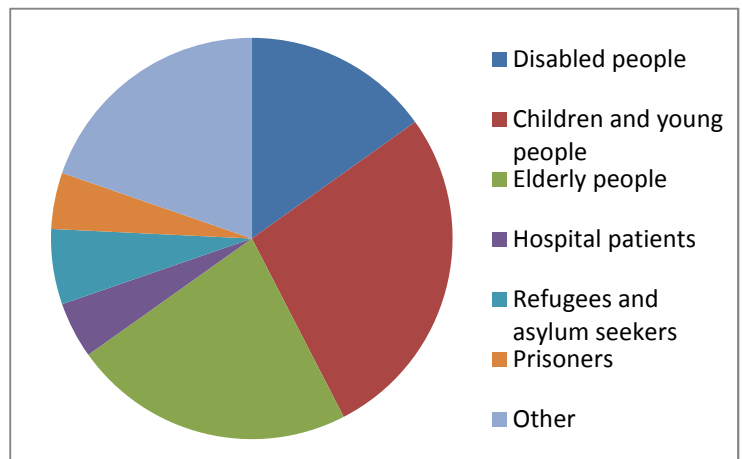
2. Voluntary Work: Which groups do you work with in the Jewish community? (25 responses)

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|
| Disabled people | 10 | 40% |
| Children and young people | 18 | 72% |
| Elderly people | 21 | 84% |
| Hospital patients | 5 | 20% |
| Refugees and asylum seekers | 5 | 20% |
| Prisoners | 3 | 12% |
| Other | 11 | 44% |



3. Which groups do you work with in the wider (non-Jewish) community? (27 responses)

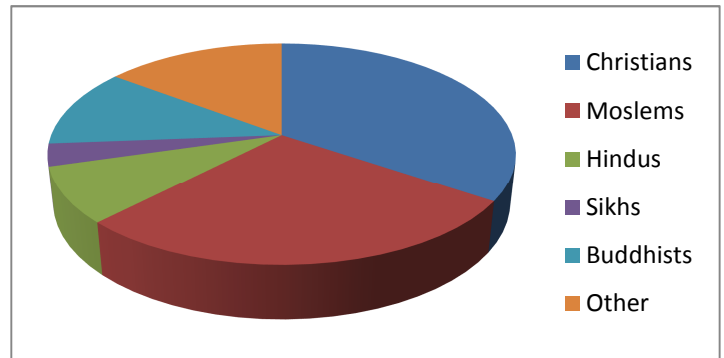
| | | |
|-----------------------------|----|-----|
| Disabled people | 10 | 39% |
| Children and young people | 18 | 69% |
| Elderly people | 15 | 58% |
| Hospital patients | 3 | 11% |
| Refugees and asylum seekers | 4 | 15% |
| Prisoners | 3 | 11% |
| Other | 13 | 50% |



Affiliate Interfaith Activities

4. Which groups do you interact with in your interfaith work? (23 responses)

| | | |
|------------|----|-----|
| Christians | 21 | 91% |
| Moslems | 17 | 74% |
| Hindus | 5 | 22% |
| Sikhs | 2 | 9% |
| Buddhists | 7 | 30% |
| Other | 9 | 39% |



Affiliate Activism & Lobbying

5. Activism & Lobbying: What issues are you active on? (27 responses)

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----|-----|
| Women's Rights and Family Issues | 22 | 81% |
| Agunot | 11 | 41% |
| Environmental & Health Issues | 17 | 63% |
| Support for Israel /Anti-BDS | 16 | 60% |
| Other | 12 | 44% |

Affiliate Cultural Activities

6. What type of Cultural Activities does your affiliate run? (29 responses)

| | | |
|------------------------------|----|-----|
| Arts & Culture | 24 | 83% |
| Jewish Education | 21 | 72% |
| Jewish Festival Celebrations | 20 | 69% |
| Other | 4 | 14% |

Affiliate Fundraising Activities

7. What other organizations does your affiliate raise funds for? (21 responses)

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|-----|
| Israel Women's & Children's Charities | 9 | 43% |
| Other Charities in Israel | 6 | 29% |
| Local Jewish Community Projects | 17 | 81% |
| Local Women's & Children's Projects | 13 | 62% |
| Other Local Groups | 9 | 43% |
| Other | 4 | 19% |

VOLUNTEERING IN ACTION

UJW's Mitzvot in 6 Cities

The [Union of Jewish Women in South Africa](#) marked Mitzvah Day with special events in six different cities.

Their members organized a blood drive in Johannesburg, volunteered at Includid – a home for adults with mental & physical disabilities in Cape Town, organized a party for the residents of the Beth Shalom and Issy Geshen Retirement Homes in Durban, and a 'Sunshine for Seniors' party for the 100 residents of Glenvandale Frail Care Centre in Port Elizabeth, distributed toys to children on the Oncology ward at Frere Hospital in East London, and enlisted help from the residents of Jaffa Retirement Home to make sandwiches for the Outpatients at the Steve Biko Hospital.



Affiliates Who Participated in the Survey

| <i>Affiliate Name</i> | <i>Country</i> | <i>Number of Branches</i> | <i>Membership</i> |
|---|----------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Argentinean Jewish Women's Network | Argentina | 1 | 12 |
| National Council of Jewish Women of Australia | Australia | 6 | 1,200 |
| Belgium Conseil des Femmes Juives de Belgique | Belgium | 3* | 60 |
| ICJW Brazil - Liga Feminina Israelita do Brasil | Brazil | 1 | 3 |
| National Council of Jewish Women of Canada | Canada | 4 | 1,800 |
| Fundación Amigos de la Comunidad Golda Meir | Colombia | 1 | 40 |
| Sisterhood Costa Rica | Costa Rica | 1 | 40 |
| Union of Jewish Women in Croatia | Croatia | 4 | 150 |
| Czech CJW | Czech Republic | 1 | 15 |
| Sociedad Femenina Israelita de Quito | Ecuador | 1 | 80 |
| NCJWF | Finland | ? | ? |
| Cooperation Feminine | France | 4 | 900 |
| LEA - ICJW Georgia | Georgia | 3 | 100 |
| Juedischer Frauenbund in Deutschland | Germany | 38 | 120 |
| Esthers' House Association | Hungary | 1 | 20 |
| Council of Women's Organizations in Israel | Israel | 9* | 1,000,000 |
| Voluntarias Judeo Mexicanas | Mexico | 8 | 30 |
| New Zealand Council of Jewish Women | New Zealand | 5 | 400 |
| Hermanadad Kol Searith Israel | Panama | 1 | 60 |
| Czulent Jewish Association | Poland | 1 | 30 |
| HAVA Jewish Women's Association | Russia | 35 | 1,500 |
| Association ESTER | Slovakia | 1 | 38 |
| Union of Jewish Women of South Africa | South Africa | 6 | 1,000 |
| CEMI Madrid | Spain | 1 | 70 |
| Judiska Kvinnoklubben | Sweden | 1 | 380 |
| BSJF/Bund Schweizerischer Jüdischer Frauen | Switzerland | 25* | 3,000 |
| Ukrainian Independent Council of Jewish Women | Ukraine | 1 | 15 |
| The League of Jewish Women | United Kingdom | 24 | 2,000 |
| National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) | United States | 65 | 40,000 |
| Consejo Uruguayo De Mujeres Judias | Uruguay | 2 | 130 |

* denotes member organizations where the affiliate is an umbrella organization.

ISABELLE G. BROWN MEMORIAL FUND TRAINING PROJECTS

Celebrating Jewish Life in Slovakia

The Conference of Women from the Slovak Jewish Communities and ICJW Branch Organizations entitled “Together Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” in Košice, Slovakia from June 19–21, 2016, commemorated the 20th Anniversary of [Association ESTER](#).

The Conference, organized by Marta Gyoriová, President of Association ESTER, addressed the topics of national minorities in the city of Košice, the role of eminent Jewish women in Slovakia during World War 2, and the changing status of women in Slovakia. Delegates heard about the history of Košice and its Jewish community and joined two guided tours of the city, highlighting its cultural treasures, monuments and Jewish sites.



The ceremonial reception in the Historic Town Hall was followed by a presentation about 20 years of the work of Association ESTER, together with presentations on Slovak and Jewish culture, at the East-Slovak Gallery, which was attended by eminent representatives of social and cultural life in Kosice.

Liliane Seidman, ICJW Regional President for Europe, and Mary Liling, ICJW’s representative to the UN in Geneva, spoke about the history of ICJW and its role yesterday, today and tomorrow. Funding from the Isabelle G. Brown Memorial Fund helped to make the Conference possible.

Inspiring People to Volunteer in Canada

The [National Council of Jewish Women of Canada](#) Triennial Convention was held in Winnipeg in September, with a workshop on volunteering funded by the Isabelle G. Brown Memorial Fund.

The workshop was led by award winning American author and TEDx speaker, Dafna Michaelson Jenet. She initiated “50 in 52 Journey”, a year-long project where she travelled around the United States to meet with people aged from 14 to 90 who have come up with ideas to solve problems in their communities.

As well as sharing her life story, Dafna led an inspiring 3-hour interactive workshop about issues, problems that they have and what they are doing to solve these problems. A number of people spoke about issues in their communities and the roadblocks that they were confronting. She encouraged the audience to go around these people and think out of the box. Some talked about membership of ICJW and how to encourage younger people to join. Dafna’s personal story was inspirational and her words of encouragement and problem solving were positive.

Sharon Allentuck, NCJWC president, reports that almost 80 people attended the workshop, including NCJWC women from Vancouver, Edmonton, London (Ontario), Toronto and Winnipeg, and men and women from the Winnipeg Jewish and general community. NCJWC is very grateful to the Grant Committee for approving this grant to enable them to bring this dynamic community leader to Canada.

Our New Affiliate in Poland

The [Czulent Jewish Association](#) in Krakow was formed in 2004 with the aim of preserving Jewish identity in Poland. In November 2016, ICJW President Robyn Lenn visited our newest affiliate and was impressed by the difference that its work is making to the small Jewish community in Krakow.



The Czulent Jewish Association was established as an independent association of Jews in Poland. Association members have different interests and views but share the belief that Jewish identity is something precious that needs to be nurtured and strengthened. The organization is open both to those who are inclined to religion and to those whose Jewishness has a secular dimension, because the foundations of our association are: pluralism, diversity, openness and tolerance.

The Association aims to create a space where members, individually or collectively, may define their identity and meet the challenges they face as active members of the Jewish community of Poland. As well as being affiliated with ICJW, the Czulent Jewish Association is a member of Religions for Peace and the Coalition for Equal Opportunities.

The priorities of the Association are:

- Integration of the Jewish community in Poland, bringing together different age groups and organizations to build a strong sense of community.
- Advancing our knowledge of Jewish culture and tradition, through the Remuh Jewish Library, the “Majn Alef Beis” publishing house, and a Sunday School for 40 children.
- Promoting tolerance and shaping attitudes of openness to differences in national, ethnic and religious minorities, with particular emphasis on condemning anti-Semitism, anti-discrimination education, organizing events relating to anti-Semitism and homophobia, and promoting human rights, gender equality and intercultural relations.

The Czulent Association has been involved in co-organizing conferences and seminars on the Roma Genocide during World War II, and Intercultural Learning and Democracy in a Diverse Europe. They also co-organized an exhibition on Poland’s national and ethnic minorities, in partnership with the Anne Frank House and the Museum of Auschwitz-Birkenau. In 2015, ICJW supported Czulent’s project “Antisemitism Is Not An Opinion!” with a small grant to help them with the publication of Polish school books on this topic. This project is designed to raise social awareness about fighting, recognizing and learning about modern forms of anti-Semitism in Poland.

We were happy to meet Anna Makowka-Kwapisiewicz, Chairwoman of the Czulent Association, at the ICJW European Regional Conference in Madrid in November 2016, and to welcome her to the ICJW family.

Calendar of ICJW Events

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 14-17 May 2017 | Herczeg Jerusalem Educational Seminar in Israel |
| 18 May 2017 | ICJW Executive Meeting in Tel Aviv |
| 13-15 November 2017 | ICJW Executive Meeting in London, UK |
| 27-30 May 2018 | ICJW Quadrennial Convention, Sydney, Australia |
| 31 May 2018 | ICJW Executive Meeting in Sydney |