

Women's Spirit, Financial Independence for Women Survivors of Abuse (Ruach Nashit) has been operating since 2007 to promote the economic independence of women survivors of physical, sexual, emotional, and financial abuse in Israel. Women's Spirit strives for social change from a feminist perspective and commitment to social and gender justice. It offers a practical and long-term solution for breaking free from the cycle of abuse, focusing on individual and group economic empowerment. Women's Spirit operates through extensive cooperation with the social and business community, policy makers in the Israeli Parliament (Knesset), and with government bodies, understanding that the integration of survivors of abuse into the labor market is a social issue, and only through raising awareness and changing policy and legislation can meaningful change be achieved.

Amplifying Impact: Conferences, Lectures Building Awareness

#### **Economic Abuse in the Spotlight - Association of Banks Conference**

We were part of the media panel to promote the Banking Accessibility Convention, which provides debt relief to women survivors of abuse. Dr. Maya Gaz, our spokeswoman, stated: "Following the war, reported violence has increased by 30-50%, and those suffering are not only the wives of reservists but also divorced reservists' wives, and women in general. We warn that in these times, when all eyes are on the front, the home front, composed of invisible women victims of abuse, is bleeding. Very soon, the home front will become the front line."



Women's Spirit Holds Consultative Status at the UN and this year we participated in the 69th UN Women conference, leading a digital webinar focusing on the invisible women on the home front against the backdrop of the 'Iron Swords' war.

## Take Control of Your Finances!

As part of the participants' support process, we launched a financial workshop aimed at increasing understanding of finance. Workshop participants deepened their understanding of payments and mortgages, pensions, savings/retirement funds, study funds, and more, while emphasizing personal responsibility of each individual regarding their resources. New and Captivating Workshops for Participants

At the beginning of 2025, we completed volunteer courses in the north and center! Dozens of new and valuable mentors and coaches from all over the country have joined our volunteer community.





#### New and Captivating Workshops for Participants

#### Digital Marketing Workshop - Leveraging Your Business in the Virtual World

17 participants from our northern branch took part in the "Digital Marketing Tools" course at the Nahariya branch. The participants learn how to present themselves and their business online, attract customers, build lasting relationships, and create a professional presence. The course, a joint initiative with the "Galilee Human Mosaic" association, is taught by a dedicated team of volunteer lecturers.

## Do You Trust Your Employer?

Collaboration with Professionals and Increasing Public Awareness of Economic Abuse

In anticipation of International Women's Day, we held a first-of-its-kind professional conference dedicated to HR professionals and department managers in a variety of leading companies and organizations, Creating a Safe Environment for women survivors of abuse.





The conference also provided practical tools for identification and support, a lecture on the characteristics of economic abuse, and the connection between abuse and money. The conference resonated deeply, highlighting the business sector's urgent need for training on this critical issue.

### Economic Abuse and Coerced Debts, and What Lies Between Them -



Adv. Hadas Arnon-Sharabi, Director of Policy and Legislation at Women's Spirit, gave a lecture on economic abuse and coerced debts to lawyers at the Supervisor of Insolvency in the Tel Aviv District as part of their "Training in Poverty-Aware and Economic Rehabilitation-Promoting Work."

Adv. Hadas Arnon-Sharabi participated in the annual Family Law Conference of the Bar Association in a session on: "Economic Abuse in the Family – Definitions, Characteristics, and Legal Solutions." In the session, we presented the extensive work of Women's Spirit, which assists women in economicoccupational rehabilitation, based on the understanding that economic independence is the key to breaking the cycle of abuse and poverty.



#### Advocacy and Policy

#### Proposed Law: Public Housing for Women Leaving Shelter For Abused Women

As an organziation that has been promoting the issue of public housing for women survivors of absue for many years, we were pleased to discover that our ongoing efforts have paid off. At the end of January 2025, the Knesset plenum passed in a preliminary reading the bill of Knesset members Pnina Tamano Shata and Yasmin Friedman, which aims to grant women who have resided in a shelter for battered women, upon their exit from the shelter, will be entitled to public housing for a period of no less than two years (according to rules and conditions to be determined). As those who have been warning from every platform about this significant barrier, and leading efforts to advance the issue, we see this bill as an important step, and in our opinion, it needs to be expanded to include women receiving assistance in the community as well.

### Firearms Bill - Notification Regarding Fear for Human Life on the Part of the Applicant for a Firearm License



In a discussion held in March, close to International Women's Day, at the National Security Committee, the Firearms Bill – "Notification Regarding Fear for Human Life on the Part of the Applicant for a Firearm License" was discussed, a bill that is the result of a process led by Women's Sprit during the "Ronen Committee", which operated within the Ministry of National Security (in 2018), We were the only organization representing women victim/survivor of abuse in the committee and initiated the recommendation to transfer information between government ministries to the Firearms Licensing Division, a recommendation that was even accepted and written in the committee's report, although it was not implemented. The bill will ensure the distribution of weapons in a careful and controlled manner and the protection of women's safety in their homes. We thank MK Fogel for promoting this important bill.

# We are excited to publish the results and data of 2024:

• 66% of participants complete the program with a higher salary than they earned when they began

- 74% of the participants complete the program while employed,
- 88% of the women complete the process with a pay slip and invoice (meaning they receive social benefits).

Following significant efforts, we are pleased to announce an increase of 60% among women who underwent a process of successfully claimed their entitlements. Key areas indicating enhanced employment and financial stability showed marked improvement, including resume development, job maintenance, adherence to work standards, and professional relationship building.

#### Research - 2024 Summary

Salary Increase Post-Program





# 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. <u>click here</u> or scan the QR Code.



## Homemade Recipes - Food Everyone Loves

An original and wonderful cookbook by Oshik Peller – a perfect gift for the holidays and beyond – is now available for purchase from Women's Spirit on-line store.

"Recipes from Home – Food Everyone Loves" was born out of an endless love for family, childhood memories, and the aromas of home cooking. The book is much more than just a collection of recipes – it's a journey into scents and textures, connecting past and present, tradition and innovation. "Recipes from Home – Food Everyone Loves" offers a unique culinary experience with inspiring stories and practical tips that will turn every meal into a celebration of flavors.

All proceeds will be donated to Women's Spirit. <u>click here</u> or scan the QR Code.

\*Book is in Hebrew\*

