

New Profile

New Profile (est. 1998) is a feminist, anti-militarist organization that has been active in Israeli society for more than 20 years. New Profile believes that militarism makes society more violent, sexist and racist, weakens its civilian and democratic values, blocks the path to peace and to ending the Israeli occupation, and perpetuates human rights violations against Palestinians and others. New Profile's main goal is the demilitarization of Israeli society.

Our objectives

- To raise the awareness of Israelis - most of all youth - to militarism in Israeli society through critical publications, workshops, and conferences.
- To support, empower and legitimize all forms of resistance to militarization in Israeli society, including, in particular, all forms of resistance to conscription. We promote this mainly through our Counselling Network, which assists each individual seeking to get exempted from service, regardless of nationality, gender, political persuasion and class.
- To consolidate the refusal movement in Israel. We continue seeking opportunities of joint action with sister- and partner movements and organizations in Israel, Palestine and internationally.

Our activities

The Counselling Network

For close to 20 years, our Counselling Network has been providing information, counselling and support to individuals who choose to avoid or discontinue military service. The Network's coordinator, legal aid coordinator and 20+ volunteers provide one-on-one long term assistance and counselling for nearly 1,000 applicants per year, assisting them through the highly complicated exemption process.

Outreach and Education

We have been intensively challenging the highly militarized education system in Israel through different initiatives: educational workshops, anti-militarist teacher forums, workshops and conferences on militarism for professionals working with youth. We provide professionals with a safe space to engage in critical discourse on the influence of the military on society and individuals, the values it promotes, the political and personal implications of resisting conscription, and civilian avenues for gaining education and job opportunities – thus overcoming discrimination against those who get exempted from military service. Through our work, we raise the awareness of social workers and teachers to potential risks posed by military service, and provide them with practical tools, through which they can help assist youth with information on exemption from military service and on civilian paths after exemption.

Publications

Over the years we published several informative booklets with much-needed information: "Options and procedures for Exemption from Military Service" (2017); "The Day after Exemption," (2018) which details optional civil paths available for young people who were exempted from military, such as civil service, professional courses, academic scholarships, housing opportunities etc.; and "When Difficulty Becomes a risk" (2020), which portrays various risks factors in military service. We have also created an informative video where four ex-soldiers share their personal experiences on hardship during military service.

Online presence

We are working to expand our online presence, in order to reach youth, and a wider segment of society, directly, through the means of communication most common to youth, and on which no limitations are put by the authorities, in a manner that will enable users to be safely exposed to our messages and receive our support. To this end:

- We are working on building a new, accessible and user-friendly website for New Profile.
- We are active on Facebook and Instagram, presenting information and evoking discussion.
- We produced a video comprising testimonies of 4 ex-soldiers on the hardship they experience during their military service, we are going to distribute online.
- In light of the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown we efficiently carried out two online panels in 2020: a workshop for youth on non-enlistment (in Hebrew), and an international panel on manifestations of militarism in government management of Covid19 in Brazil, Germany, Israel & Nepal (in English).

What we benefit from *Frauen für den Frieden's* support

Frauen für den Frieden supports us continuously for years. Such steady support, which is not limited to a certain project, enables us to keep carrying our work to demilitarize Israeli society. And not less important – it encourages us, warms our hearts and help us keep going, to know and feel that people in another country care about the situation we face, and are in real solidarity with our efforts to challenge it.