

# ISRAEL

Founded in 1881 to provide comfort and aid to Jews escaping pogroms in Eastern Europe, HIAS has always had a special relationship with Israel.



## HIAS IN ISRAEL

Even before the establishment of the State of Israel, HIAS helped Jews to immigrate to Palestine as early as 1927. HIAS established an office in Israel in 1950 to assist the large waves of *olim* in their arrival, absorption, and integration into Israeli society. As the Israeli government and the Jewish Agency have assumed responsibility for immigration and absorption of *olim*, HIAS now plays a unique role in the development of the Israeli asylum system.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR OLIM IN ISRAEL

For more than three decades, the HIAS Scholarship Program has awarded funds for higher education tuition to student *olim* based on academic achievement, financial need, and community service.

## LEGAL EDUCATION - REFUGEES IN ISRAEL

In 2001, HIAS established the first-ever refugee law course in Israel and in 2003, we co-formed the first Israeli refugee law clinic. Established at Tel Aviv University's Buchman Law Faculty, the clinic is the premier institution of refugee law, knowledge, and expertise in Israel.



### **LEGAL EXPERTISE – REFUGEES IN ISRAEL**

As the State of Israel sought a response to the influx of more than 50,000 migrants seeking refuge from conflict zones, HIAS was at the forefront of training asylum officers in RSD (Refugee Status Determination) and lawyers in refugee law so that they can help asylum seekers find protection and realize their right to due process. Today, HIAS is leading a pro bono legal representation program for asylum seekers in Israel.

### **ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL REFUGEES IN ISRAEL**

HIAS meets with individuals and families (mostly from Eritrea and Sudan) to help them evaluate options for reuniting with family in other countries, including the United States, Canada, Italy, Australia, Switzerland, and Sweden.

### **COLLEAGUES AND PARTNERS**

HIAS works with Israeli and international NGOs including African Refugee Development Center, Aid Organization for Refugees and Asylum Seekers, Center for International Migration and Integration, Hotline for Refugees and Migrants, Ruppin Academic Center, Physicians for Human Rights, Tel Aviv University Refugee Rights Clinic, Amnesty – Israel, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

