

Brooke Goldstein, Founder and Executive Director, Lawfare Project
October meeting of the JNGOs and Friends
October 24, 2018
Reported by Joan Lurie, Co-chair JNGOs and Dr. Debbie Soffen, Child Rights
Advocate and friend of JNGOs

The speaker at the October, 2018 meeting of the Caucus of Jewish NGOs was Brooke Goldstein. The meeting was hosted by Hadassah on October 24, 2018.

Brooke emphasized UNRWA in her talk because UNRWA is a major focus of the JNGOs and of her own organization. Her approach is to advocate for Palestinian children who have the right to an incitement free education. Human rights of children, as defined by the UN, certainly include an education which does not advocate murder and suicide. While a law student, Brooke saw a story about a 15 year old handicapped child named Hassam who was incited to blow himself up. The Al Aksa martyrs paid him \$20 to take his own life but he did not do it and was imprisoned for attempted murder. This and related stories led to Brooke interviewing children and Hamas officials and making the film "Making of a martyr" which, in 2006, won a prestigious award at the UN.

After law school, she pursued these interests and learned that there was an organized strategic legal attack on the US and Israel in order to delegitimize them in the legal world. Ultimately she raised money and was able to start the Lawfare Project which lobbies for the use of the American legal system to fight discrimination. She regards the Lawfare Project as defending the First Amendment.

Lawfare:

She noted that the Arabs have put a tremendous amount of money into fighting Israel legally while traditional Jewish sources were doing nothing. Brooke Goldstein approached Malcom Hoenlein and together they started the first pro-Israel legal fund in the world. Now 22 major law firms are donating pro bono time and money. Over 300 lawyers are involved. During the past 3 years, they have filed 70 legal actions with some significant successes.