

**Hoshen** (the Hebrew acronym for *Education & Change*) is the information and education center of the **LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender) community in Israel**. Hoshen is a nationwide, non-profit volunteer organization whose purpose is to work toward the full inclusion of LGBT individuals in Israeli society, through education and change. Over 200 volunteers work daily to achieve this goal, combating stereotypes and creating meaningful human encounters, using a wide array of educational activities designed for many different target audiences: high school students and teachers, university students and faculty members, police and border guard corps officers, soldiers, army cadets and officers, medical staff, social workers, and guidance counselors. Hoshen is officially recognized by the Educational Psychological Authority (SHEFI) of the Ministry of Education.

**Hoshen's roots** go back to 1976, when Dr. Moshe Dov established The Aguda's (The National Association of LGBT in Israel) Lecturing Service. In 2001, the organization was reformed and eventually turned out as



The Aguda's public relations office named – "Hoshen" (Education & Change). In July 2004, Hoshen became an independent NGO.

**For the past 7 years Hoshen volunteers** have been carrying out a wide array of educational activities, personal meetings, academic lectures, workshops and seminars dealing with sexual orientation and gender identity.

[www.hoshen.org](http://www.hoshen.org)

Tel: 972-52-5609393, Fax -972-3-9008668 p.o.b 23038, Tel Aviv 61230

**Hoshen's main educational activity is the Personal Story:** two LGBT individuals



share their own personal story. This allows for the creation of a stereotype-free environment, with the unique attributes of each story-teller. The way that the personal story is conveyed by the volunteers helps the audience relate to them, sympathize with the difficulties and hardships they had to face and sometimes the price they had to pay.

Hoshen's educational activities help LGBT teens tremendously, teens that yearn for a positive LGBT role-model, who they can relate to, ask questions and receive first hand information regarding their experiences.

### **LGBT Civic Studies Program**

Following the Ministry of Education's decision to reform and extend the current civic studies curriculum, Hoshen's Content Development Team put together a program aimed to educate high school students regarding LGBT history and familiarize them with various activists and their fight for civil rights equality, as well as shed some light on less familiar sides of the LGBT community, such as Transgender, Bisexual, Jewish-Orthodox LGBT's and others.

The Civic Studies program consists of 33 meetings, each 45 minutes long, that are facilitated by Hoshen representatives while cooperating with other LGBT organizations such as IGY (Israeli Gay Youth organization), Tehila (the Israeli "PFLAG") and the LGBT Municipal Center in Tel Aviv.

[www.hoshen.org](http://www.hoshen.org)

Tel: 972-52-5609393, Fax -972-3-9008668 p.o.b 23038, Tel Aviv 61230

### **The Kindergarten Teachers' Program**

With LGBT Parenthood on the rise, there arose a need to introduce these new and non-traditional families to teachers and school administrators in the Kindergarten system. Last year a team composed of: psychologists, education councilors, kindergarten teachers and representatives of the education system developed a program that would help kindergarten teachers deal with children that are raised in LGBT families and acknowledge their special needs. During 2012 this program will be introduced as part of the curriculum at the Oranim Academic College and the Kibbutzim College of Education, Technology & Arts. As part of this program Hoshen also enjoys a fruitful cooperation with Zebra TV channels, operators of Israel's popular "HOP" TV children's channels.

### **Academic Research.**

Hoshen also comprises an Academic Research Team that deals with LGBT related topics. A study conducted in 2010 examined chronological milestones in the life of LGBT people, such as the age at which LGBT individuals discover their different sexual orientation, the period in which they decide to hide their orientation and the processes they go through before coming out of the closet.

### **Hoshen and the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF)**

Hoshen's activities in the IDF have been taking place for several years, following a struggle that resulted in the IDF's recognition that advocacy regarding LGBT issues is crucial for the LGBT soldier. Hoshen activities in the army, as well as those in the civil sector, are intended to create a more enabling and accepting environment through knowledge of LGBT history and personal acquaintance with people from the LGBT community. Hoshen works mainly with diagnostics NCOs, and squad leaders training courses, in addition to other activities that were asked for by the Ombudsman for soldiers, mental health officers, and more.

[www.hoshen.org](http://www.hoshen.org)

Tel: 972-52-5609393, Fax -972-3-9008668 p.o.b 23038, Tel Aviv 61230