



IDF Reservists' Wives Forum – Fighting for Our Homes

Our Vision

We envision a resilient society that uplifts reservist families as vital contributors to Israel's strength, providing them with sustainable solutions for stability and quality of life.

Background and Founding Story

On October 7, 2023, the outbreak of the Iron Swords War profoundly altered the lives of millions of Israelis. Hundreds of thousands of reservists were called to duty under emergency orders ("Tzav 8"), leaving families, partners, and children to face immense emotional, economic, and logistical challenges. Among those impacted were mothers raising children alone, managing anxiety and sacrifice as their partners served the nation.

In response, 12 wives of active combat reservists founded the [IDF Reservists' Wives Forum – Fighting for Our Homes](#). Sparked by a heartfelt cry on social media:

"I feel like we're invisible! The army doesn't know how to give us answers, mothers are collapsing... the kids are struggling... Who thinks we need to step up and bring this issue to the public agenda?"

This initiative quickly transformed into a movement, leading historic policy and legislative changes for the families of reservists. What began as a WhatsApp group grew into a powerful community of over 20,000 women, representing more than 100,000 reservist families across Israel.



The Reality for Reservist Families

The challenges faced by reservist families are immense and multifaceted:

- **Emotional Strain:** 80% of reservists' spouses express **despair and hopelessness**; 57% of women reported feeling **distant or disconnected** from others frequently.
- **Economic Hardship:** Approximately one-third of reservists and their spouses employed in salaried positions have experienced **employment setbacks**, with 70% having already **exhausted their unemployment benefits**.
- **Mental Health Challenges:** 19% of reservists' wives reported self-harming thoughts in recent months – highlighting the urgent need for accessible mental health support.



We recognize that to sustain the morale and strength of our soldiers during the ongoing war, it is essential to uphold the resilience of the families of the reservists on the home front.

Impact and Achievements in 2024

The Forum has emerged as the leading advocate for the rights and well-being of reservist families, achieving significant milestones in the public, legal, and media arenas. Over the course of a year, the forum spearheaded a shift in perception among the Israeli public and decision-makers in the government, the Knesset, and the IDF regarding the importance of reservist families. It also advanced historic initiatives to ensure the emotional, economic, and occupational resilience of 100,000 reservist families in Israel.

Advocacy

Drafted and promoted three government resolutions totaling **27 billion NIS**, including:

- “Mobilized for the Reserves” national program (January 2024) & “National Economic Support Framework for Reservist Families” (March and May 2025)
- Advocated for [policy improvements](#) through engagements with government officials and military leaders.

Legislative Successes

Passed a [landmark law](#) safeguarding reservists and spouses from termination or unpaid leave.



- Secured retroactive compensation for those who were laid off or placed on furlough since the war began.
- Advocated for dedicated solutions for specific populations- divorced spouses and self-employed individuals-that had not previously received state or IDF support.

Community Engagement

- Established a network of reservist families in 70 municipalities promoting policy change at the local level.
- Raised public awareness via media campaigns, including features in top news outlets.
- Organized monthly events, zoom meetings to alleviate loneliness and provide emotional tools, and delivered care packages to thousands of reservist families.

Legal and Structural Support

- Created a volunteer legal system that has prevented hundreds of dismissals, adopted by the IDF's reservist unit.
- Supported the establishment of the IDF Reservist Families Unit in the Ministry of Defense, advising on family-focused solutions, as recommended in discussions with the Prime Minister.

Awards and Public Recognition

- Honored with the [Ruth Rappaport Prize for Trailblazing Women](#).
- [Knesset Speaker's Quality of Life Award \(2025\)](#).
- [Torchbearer](#) at Israel's 76th Independence Day ceremony.
- Featured on [Forbes' 2024 list](#) and [Globes' 2025](#) of influential women.



A significant shift has occurred in public perception of reservist families, moving the focus from the individual soldier or reservist to acknowledging that the entire family is "drafted" during wartime, thereby establishing them as a recognized and supported community.



Primary Goals for 2025

1. **Advocacy Framework:** Promotion and long-term establishment of the rights and protections for reservist families through engagement with government ministries, the Knesset, and senior IDF representatives, building on the successful legislation from 2024.
2. **Research and Knowledge Framework:** Collaborate with over 20 partner organizations to engage stakeholders in research, driving evidence-based initiatives that connect policy with field operations.
3. **Municipal Policy and Solutions Framework:** Expand operations to 100 municipalities, providing professional training, fostering partnerships, and creating sustainable, localized systems of support.
4. **360° Emotional Support" Framework:** Establish quality standards and accessible resources for emotional support, delivering tailored treatments through partnerships.
5. **Employment:** Develop a systemic, multi-layered response to the employment challenges facing reservist families. This includes professional retraining, job placement programs in partnership with leading tech companies, incentives for employers and regulatory & policy reforms.

***Our organization has received Equivalency Determination (ED) certification through NGOsource, confirming its equivalence to a U.S. public charity under Section 501(c)(3).**



Support Us

The IDF Reservists' Wives Forum is dedicated to ensuring the stability and resilience of Israel's 100,000 reservist families. Together, your support will enable us to empower some 450,000 reservist spouses and children across Israel to thrive during and beyond times of national challenge.

