



programs

ELEM|עלם 

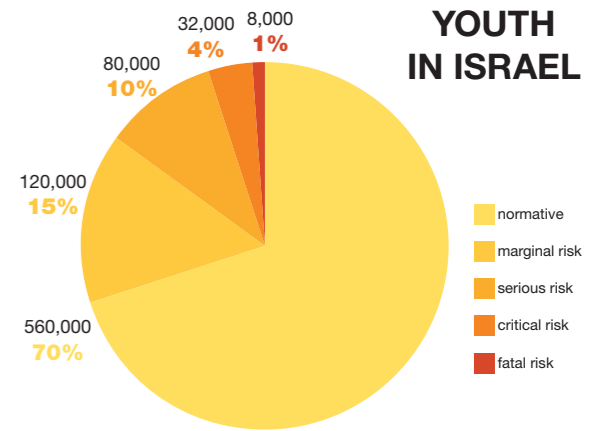
העמותה לנוער במצבי סיכון (ע"ר) | youth in distress

Since its beginning, ELEM has been a powerful and effective voice for neglected and abused adolescents in Israel.



ELEM is currently the foremost address for adolescents in trouble in Israel. It is the place they can turn to, knowing they will be understood and helped. It is the place where trust is established. We serve Israel's "invisible" youth – young people whom many have given up on, including those who are estranged from their families; unemployed school drop-outs; adjudicated delinquents; drug-addicted or homeless youth; and teens engaged in prostitution. Counted among those we serve are young people who have been abused and abandoned, who have been left to struggle alone on the streets. Each year ELEM meets with 30,000 of these youth, and connects with another 100,000 online.

ELEM truly is the champion of Israel's neglected and delinquent youth. We speak for them and to them – and above all, we listen.



ELEM operates a national network of counseling & information centers called *Hafuch al Hafuch*. The centers offer group and individual counseling, assistance and support. Working alongside the professional staff are over 400 volunteers, both adults and youth, in 12 centers nationwide.

Innovative Business Initiatives for Youth offers youth the opportunity to learn workplace skills, build confidence, and strengthen their cooperation and teamwork abilities by operating a small independent business. Youth at Café Yael in Sderot, for example, manage all aspects of a coffee shop offering sandwiches and light meals.

The *YELEM* website allows youth to receive reliable and valuable information, assistance and individual and group counseling—all while remaining anonymous. Trained professionals respond via forum, chat room, and email.

ELEM operates 13 social-therapeutic centers throughout Israel specifically geared towards different cultural groups. The *Migdalar Centers* provide a solution for adolescents who find it difficult to integrate into formal institutions. Youth can work on academic studies, practice athletics or music, and attend a variety of workshops on issues of particular interest to them.

Derech Hamelech matches youth on probation with a volunteer mentor, who leads them in developing life and vocational skills, empowering themselves, and eventually finding a vocational placement with one of ELEM's professional partners.

The *Liliyot Restaurant* Project provides detached youth socio-therapeutic treatment in tandem with professional training in the culinary arts. The youth work in a gourmet restaurant and bakery in Tel Aviv and leave the program with a new set of vocational and life skills.

Treatment available in the community for young women who are victims of incest or sexual assault is often stigmatizing and incomplete. *A Real Home* provides these women a variety of conventional and holistic treatments: group and individual therapy, art therapy, medication and psychiatric interventions, enrichment activities, and family treatment.

When youth can't or won't come to ELEM, ELEM comes to them, via its *Outreach Vans* in 22 cities nationwide every night. Onboard, professionals and volunteers offer immediate help to homeless and drifting youth by providing humanitarian aid, informal counseling and referrals to other social services where appropriate. The vans operate in cooperation with the International Fellowship of Christians & Jews.

ELEM is the only organization in Israel that deals with the issue of sex offenders ranging from young children to the age of 18. *The Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Sexual Violence Among Children and Youth*, located in Tel Aviv, conducts diagnostic services and provides group, individual, and family therapy for young sex offenders and their families.

ADI Center in Rechovot welcomes girls who are alienated from family or other supportive structures, who are victims of sexual and physical violence, and who demonstrate destructive behavior. At ADI these girls are empowered by the therapeutic process and are given educational and vocational opportunities to help them get back on track without being placed in a stigmatizing closed therapeutic program.

Often, youth on the streets just need a safe haven and a place to meet the most basic needs: hot meals, clothing, a shower, a sympathetic ear. *Someone To Run With* in Tel Aviv and *Galgal* in Jerusalem offer homeless youth, often new immigrants with no support structure and often drug-addicted, these basic needs, as well as assistance in connecting to appropriate services in the community. The Galgal Shelter provides emergency accommodations for homeless and addicted young women in Jerusalem.

ELEM's *Awake at Night* project is the only refuge in Israel for minors involved in prostitution. Social workers establish trust with these youth and provide humanitarian, medical and legal assistance. A 24-hour emergency hotline operated by trained volunteers assists these youth in crisis situations.

ELEM offers preventative services and outreach to runaway, homeless and neglected Jewish and Arab youth throughout Israel.



Original Artwork by an ELEM Youth

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