



WEPOWER IMPACT UPDATE

July 2026 Newsletter

In August, the world marks **Women's Equality Day**. For us at WEPOWER, it is more than a date on the calendar. It is a reminder that equality does not happen on its own. It requires vision, commitment, partnerships, and long-term investment.

As Israel approaches both national and local elections, it is more important than ever to continue working on every level – in education, public policy, local government, and the community. We believe that real change does not begin on election day. It begins years earlier through leadership development, legislative initiatives, educational programs, and strong partnerships.

This work is made possible thanks to our donors, foundations, business partners, and supporters who see gender equality as an essential part of social resilience, strong democracy, and ESG principles.

Dr. Orit Rishpi

Educating the Next Generation of Leaders

GEFEN – Bringing Our Experience into the Education System

This year, three WEPOWER educational programs were approved for the Israeli Ministry of Education's **GEFEN** program.

This is an important recognition of the knowledge, experience, and methodology we have developed over more than 20 years.

Behind these programs are hundreds of leadership trainings and mentoring processes. Today, dozens of WEPOWER graduates serve as city council members, deputy mayors, mayors, Members of Knesset, CEOs, and senior leaders across Israel's public and social sectors.

Now, this knowledge is also reaching schools, providing educators with practical tools to promote gender equality, leadership, fairness, and social responsibility from an early age.



Building the Foundation for Gender Equality in Local Government

The National Program for Gender Equality

Alongside our fieldwork, WEPOWER continues to develop a national program to promote gender equality in local government.

The program aims to provide municipalities with practical tools, measurable indicators, and working mechanisms that will help turn commitments to equality into real action.

One of the main challenges is that Israel's **Central Bureau of Statistics** still does not provide official indicators for measuring gender equality in local authorities. Without consistent data, it is difficult to measure progress, compare municipalities, or develop evidence-based public policy.

This is exactly the foundation WEPOWER is working to build.

The Public Has Already Spoken

The Gender Equality Charter

As Israel prepares for the upcoming elections, WEPOWER continues to promote the **Gender Equality Charter**, calling on political parties to commit to equal representation of women in decision-making positions.

The Charter is based on the findings of WEPOWER's national public survey, which showed broad public support for equal representation and a clear understanding that women's leadership improves decision-making, strengthens public trust, and benefits society as a whole.

The message is clear:

The Israeli public expects gender equality and is ready to support political parties that promote it.

This work is also based on reports by the **State Comptroller**, which have repeatedly highlighted the ongoing gaps in women's representation and the need for systemic action.



Shaping Tomorrow's Public Policy Through Legislation

As part of the preparations for the 2028 local elections, WEPOWER's Legal Forum, led by **Adv. Adi Levi-Skop**, held a professional roundtable to develop a policy paper promoting legislative reforms to strengthen gender equality in local government.

One key conclusion emerged from the discussion:

Financial incentives alone do not create real change.

Participants developed recommendations to strengthen women's representation—especially Arab and Haredi women—in local election lists, reinforce the role of municipal gender equality advisors, promote gender-responsive budgeting and gender mainstreaming in local authorities, and strengthen democratic governance at the municipal level.

Adv. Adi Levi-Skop, Head of WEPOWER's Legal Forum:

"Our goal is to create fairer rules that will enable more women to reach decision-making positions and lead meaningful change."

From Leadership Training to the Knesset

As part of WEPOWER's "**Leading Tomorrow**" leadership program, participants from the Modiin and Gezer Regional Council cohorts visited the Knesset.

During the visit, they met with Member of Knesset **Merav Cohen**, attended meetings of the **Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality**, and gained first-hand insight into Israel's legislative process and decision-making system.

"The visit to the Knesset made me realize that leadership is not a title – it is a responsibility. For the first time, I truly felt that I could be part of the decision-making process."

Participant, "Leading Tomorrow" Program

At the same time, WEPOWER continues to participate in meetings of the Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, bringing research, professional knowledge, and field experience directly to policymakers.



Partnerships That Create Impact

WEPOWER's partnership with **Atidim Park** continues to grow, connecting civil society, academia, and the business sector to promote innovation, leadership, and gender equality.

We believe that investing in gender equality is an investment in social resilience, economic growth, and responsible leadership-the core values of **ESG**.

Thank You to Our Partners

WEPOWER's work is made possible thanks to our donors, philanthropic foundations, corporate partners, volunteers, and supporters who invest not only in projects, but in long-term systemic change.

Every leadership program, every policy initiative, and every young person who receives equal opportunities is made possible through your partnership.

Building the Future Together

WEPOWER invites foundations, companies, and organizations committed to **ESG** values to join us in advancing gender equality across Israel.

Together, we can expand leadership programs, reach more schools, strengthen local government, promote public policy, and increase women's representation in decision-making positions.

Because gender equality is not just a goal - it is the foundation of a stronger, fairer, and more democratic society.

For partnerships and donations

WEPOWER