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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Palestinian and Israeli youth peace activists from the OneVoice Movement  
Speak at UMass Amherst on "One Million Voices for Peace in the Middle East"  
Program sponsored by Jewish, Muslim and Arab groups**

Jewish, Muslim and Arab groups at UMass Amherst have come together to bring two young Palestinian and Israeli peace activists from the OneVoice Movement to campus on Thursday, March 5.

The **OneVoice Movement** is an international grassroots movement with over 640,000 signatories in roughly equal numbers in Israel and in Palestine, and 1,800 highly-trained youth leaders. It aims to amplify the voice of the overwhelming but heretofore silent majority of moderates who wish for peace, empowering them to demand accountability from elected representatives and work toward a two-state solution guaranteeing an end to occupation and violence, and a viable, independent Palestinian state at peace with Israel.

The youth activists of the OneVoice Movement have carried out this work in part through their "One Million Voices to End the Conflict" campaign—a year-long effort designed to activate the civic network that OneVoice had been building for over five years. It aimed to engage and empower the moderate majorities in Israel, Palestine, and worldwide via a series of civic engagement, public awareness, and mass mobilization campaigns. The campaign succeeded in signing up hundreds of thousands of Israelis and Palestinians to the OneVoice Mandate, calling for immediate, uninterrupted negotiations toward a two-state solution.

**NISREEN ABDALLAH** is the youth development and leadership program director at the OneVoice Palestine office in Ramallah. **ROI ASSAF** is director of the leadership program at the OneVoice Israel office in Tel Aviv. Ms. Abdallah and Mr. Assaf will speak about their work with hundreds of youth activists in their respective communities, spreading the message of moderation, non-violence and peaceful conflict resolution, and providing a model of compromise and joint action for student and community groups. (Detailed biographies are attached.)

The program is sponsored by the Office of Jewish Affairs, Student Alliance for Israel, Muslim Students Association, Arab Students Club, Muslim Public Affairs Council (all at UMass Amherst), and the local chapter of Brit Tzedek v'Shalom: The Jewish Alliance for Justice and Peace.

**ONE MILLION VOICES FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**

**A panel discussion with Palestinian and Israeli peace activists  
from the grassroots OneVoice Movement**

Thursday, March 5, 2009 at 7:30 PM  
Cape Cod Lounge, Student Union Building, UMass Amherst

This event is free, open to the public, and wheelchair accessible.

More information at <http://www.umass.edu/jewish/programs/onevoice/> or contact Larry Goldbaum at the Office of Jewish Affairs, 413-545-9642 or [goldbaum@admin.umass.edu](mailto:goldbaum@admin.umass.edu)



## **OneVoice Movement: Speaker Biographies**

**New England / New York tour, February 25- March 5, 2009**  
**UMass Amherst, March 5, 2009**

### **NISREEN ABDALLAH** **OneVoice Palestine**

Nisreen Abdallah is the Youth Development and Leadership Program Director at the OneVoice Palestine office in Ramallah. Nisreen holds a BA in English literature and translation and a Master's in Public Policy. Prior to working at OneVoice, she was involved in several developmental projects implemented in Palestine, including the Civic Society and Democracy Strengthening Project, a USAID-funded project, and the Operational Palestinian Child and Youth Project. In addition, Ms. Abdallah has extensive experience as a field officer in conflict resolution, development and capacity building. She is an experienced trainer in the fields of communication and public speaking skills, strategic planning, social mobilization and advocacy and lobbying, and has research experience in the field of gender development and policy making.

### **ROI ASSAF** **OneVoice Israel**

Roi Assaf is the Director of the leadership program at the OneVoice Israel office in Tel Aviv. He holds a Master's and a Bachelor's Degree from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in International Relations and Political Science. At the Hebrew University he was the Vice CEO of the Student Union and a Teaching Assistant in both departments. Mr. Assaf has many years of experience both in practical research and as a volunteer. He worked in international non-profits and in the field of Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution prior to his current position at OneVoice.

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