

# AI Pulse: Finding a Shared Path Forward

NATALI LEVIN-SCHWARTZ

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## Executive Summary

As this devastating war continues, assessing its full impact remains challenging. However, now is the time to lay the groundwork for a radically different future, where pursuing sustainable peace is paramount. With heightened violence impacting communities in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank, at levels not seen in the history of this conflict, three things are already clear:

1. The Israeli-Palestinian reality has been utterly upended by these events, and the reality that emerges after it could be very different from what came before.
2. As a result, there has perhaps never been a moment that is more malleable and where new ideas, energies, and strategies can shape what comes next.
3. The community of Israeli and Palestinian peacebuilders offer these very critical ingredients and must play a leading role in determining the reality that emerges from this profound crisis.

**The key question is:** in the face of deep rupture, how do we foster consensus across both peacebuilders and the wider public and develop a unified strategy for moving forward? To explore this question, the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), in partnership with Dr. Oded Leshem and high-tech firm Remesh AI, launched the AI Pulse research initiative to facilitate large-scale discussions among peacebuilding professionals and, eventually, the general public.

AI Pulse brings the cutting-edge tool Remesh AI, previously employed in other conflict zones, to assist in having difficult yet necessary conversations during one of the most challenging periods in Israeli-Palestinian relations. Like a large-scale focus group, Remesh enables hundreds—and potentially thousands—of participants to engage simultaneously in online, text-based discussions in their native language. AI algorithms extract key themes and convert them into actionable quantitative data.

In the first phase, completed in July 2024, we conducted three uni-national sessions, followed by a groundbreaking multinational dialogue—the first of its kind at such a scale since the war began—bringing together Jewish-Israelis, Palestinians from the Occupied Territories, and Palestinian citizens of Israel. Participants responded to open-ended questions, voted on each other's responses, and ranked different statements by importance. Each session was followed by a poll to validate the AI analysis. This approach allowed us to assess peacebuilders' positions on conflict and peace and to explore whether they could unite around shared strategies during this pivotal moment.

The results from over 140 participants highlight the resilience of civil society, demonstrating that despite a highly-polarized environment, peacebuilders can engage constructively and achieve consensus on key issues. They are also able to unite behind shared demands directed at their respective societies, their leaders, and the international community. In the next phase, we will compare these findings with the perspectives of the general public to build a path forward.

## Key Findings:

The insights below highlight key points of consensus and divergence among peacebuilders across three identity groups: (1) Israeli Jews (IJ), (2) Palestinians from the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTPAL), and (3) Palestinian Citizens of Israel (PCI), with variation in age, gender, and religiosity.

### Shared values:

Across both uni-national and multinational discussions, there was overwhelming agreement on key values. For example, in the uni-national sessions, "peace and human life" ranked highest among Jewish Israelis (99%), OPT Palestinians (92%), and PCI participants (100%), reflecting a broad consensus on the importance of this value.

### Shared outcomes:

The most desired future outcome was "ending the war and achieving peace and regional stability," supported by 100% of OPT and PCI Palestinians, and 97% of Jewish Israelis in uni-national sessions. The multinational discussions concurred and provided more detailed visions, including cross-border partnerships and practical interpretations of freedom of movement.

### Points of divergence:

While there was a high level of agreement (generally, 60%+ across groups), differences emerged in the type of statements produced by each group and their ranking. Jewish-Israelis emphasized changing and building relationships (and addressing trauma), while Palestinians focused on structural issues like justice, self-determination, and ending occupation. Strategic disagreements also arose on prioritizing top-leveraging (53%) vs. ground-building (42%) approaches to peace, with men favoring top-leveraging (60%) more than women (50%).

### Shared redlines:

Participants in all groups strongly opposed violence against civilians, whether perpetrated by the "other side" or their own group.

## Takeaways and Next Steps:

**Primary Takeaway:** Despite the overwhelming trauma and polarization generated by the war—where agreement on almost anything seems impossible—peacebuilders from all three groups engaged in open, respectful, and creative dialogue, arriving at consensus on key topics crucial to building a movement for transformation.

## Next Steps and Recommendations (Generated by Participants)

### Consensus demands for the international community generated by the multinational discussion:

- An immediate ceasefire and release of all hostages;
- Create an international fund to build foundations for a comprehensive solution;
- Create a globalized coalition for Gaza's reconstruction;
- Include civil society and NGOs in peacebuilding discussions; and
- Recognize both sides' trauma.

ALLMEP will work to deliver these demands to the international community, building off the clear mandate secured at the 2024 G7 Leaders Summit, where leading powers agreed that civil society's role would be integrated into any wider diplomatic strategy.

### **Consensus demands for the residents of the region generated by the multinational discussion:**

- We all must condemn violence and promote human dignity;
- We must pressure governments to end hostilities and negotiate peace;
- We must all demand the end of occupation and settlement expansion;
- We all must recognize the right of self-determination for both peoples; and
- We must create a regional coalition against violence and extremism.

ALLMEP will work with its 160+ member organizations to build messaging, campaign and programmatic resources that can reflect these shared principles to key audiences on both sides of the Green Line.

### **Structural vs. Relational Approaches**

The difference between the relational approach favored by many Jewish Israelis and the more structural focus of many Palestinians highlights the need for peace strategies that address both dimensions. These ideas need not be in conflict. In fact, a hybrid set of interventions can harness the transformative potential of both approaches, creating a more holistic, stable, effective path to peace.

ALLMEP will integrate these insights into the design of its programming and member services, ensuring that they can inform the activities and strategies of its 160+ member organizations.

### **Top-Leveraging vs. Ground-Building strategies**

**Top-Leveraging Strategy:** This strategy leverages grassroots movements to influence decision-makers at higher political or institutional levels. It seeks to create public pressure and demand for urgent peace negotiations and conflict resolution, with leadership engagement as the primary goal.

**Ground-Building Strategy:** This strategy focuses on cultivating public support and unity at the grassroots level. It builds public support, aiming to create an environment where diplomatic efforts can succeed when leaders are ready for negotiations.

While participants overall had a very slight preference for top-leveraging approaches, these priorities were different along gender lines. However, it's important to note that participants were asked to prioritize one over the other. In practice, conflict resolution theory and field experience show that pursuing both in tandem is most effective, with each track opening up space and legitimacy for the other to proceed and deepen its impact.

ALLMEP is already preparing documents and strategies to be shared with both the peacebuilding community and key diplomatic actors. These materials will outline the optimal sequencing, interlocking relationships, and potential impact of a combined approach, aligning with the new G7 policy on civil society's role in Israeli-Palestinian conflict resolution.

### **AI Pulse for the People**

Thanks to AI Pulse, we now have an accurate and up-to-date understanding of how the peacebuilding field relates to the ongoing seismic events of the last year, and what ideas and priorities are shared by both its Israeli and Palestinian members. This data can help ALLMEP and its member organizations develop new interventions, ideas, and language suited to the post-October 7th reality. This will allow the peacebuilding field to align around shared insights on program and message effectiveness, while gaining a deeper awareness of the transformed landscape and the associated risks and opportunities of different strategies and approaches.

In a future phase, AI Pulse will expand to include a statistically representative sample of the Israeli and Palestinian populations. That data can then help optimize both ongoing and new approaches in the field by testing their effectiveness.