

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

RESEARCH  
Sharia and Judiciary

‘Sharia and Judiciary’ (כדת וקאדין الشريعة والقضاء) is an [online journal](#), the first of its kind, focused on Sharia law in Israel. Founded by the Legal Aid Department of the Ministry of Justice and the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies at the University of Haifa, led by Dr. Ido Shahar and Prof. Karin Carmit Yefet, the journal provides selected family law rulings in Hebrew, analyzing the application of Islamic law in Israel through judicial insights, opinion pieces, and editorials. Its primary goal is



President Isaac Herzog, accompanied by Rector Prof. Mouna Maroun and Prof. Uriel Simonsohn (Credit: University of Haifa).



HIGHFA Forum gathering (Credit: Guy Yechieli).

to create a dedicated platform for academic and legal discourse on Sharia law.

**Like a Bridge Over Troubled Water**  
A paper by Prof. Eran Vigoda-Gadot and Prof. Zehavit Levitats examines the connection between citizen wellbeing and three forms of trust in governance: trust in political institutions, public administration, and enforcement agencies during the pandemic. The [authors contend](#) that public service can serve as a bridge linking citizens' wellbeing and political trust.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**  
**NEXUS – New Journal**  
Dr. Pnina Shuker and Dr. Kobby Barda, are editors of the new journal [NEXUS](#). This publication

is a new enterprise of the Haifa Laboratory for Religious Studies will showcase a mix of scholarly articles, research contributions, and semi-popular essays.

**This Week in the Middle East**  
Dr. Yaron Friedman from the Department of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies is offering a free, weekly, accessible [newsletter](#) featuring news on the Middle East.

**New Volunteering Program**  
The International School has launched a new volunteer program in collaboration with ‘Masa’, which includes individual and group volunteering opportunities throughout the city of Haifa. Students are volunteering in places such as the rehabilitation department at

Bnei Zion Hospital, the pediatric oncology department at Rambam Hospital, a soup kitchen, kindergartens, and tomato picking.

**LEARNING AND STUDENTS**  
**Interwoven Worlds Program**  
A [fellowship program](#) in Haifa focused on interreligious interactions. The program provides a framework for doctoral researchers from diverse disciplinary backgrounds whose studies center on interreligious issues. It aims to foster a dynamic and supportive community for researchers investigating various aspects of interreligious engagement across all academic fields.

**World Debate Championship Runners-Up**  
Congratulations to the World Debate Championship runners-up: [Amitai Wagner and Ramy Masalha](#), who secured second place at the World Universities Debate Championship. They represented the university's debate club, which operates under the Student Dean's Office.



Debate Championship: Amitai Wagner and Ramy Masalha (Credit: University of Haifa website).

**OPERATIONS**  
**HIGHFA Forum**  
The Friends of the University of Haifa Association in Israel has [launched the HIGHFA Forum](#) – an elite network for alumni of the University of Haifa.

**Making Legal Forms Accessible**  
Second-year students in a typography course at the Department of Visual Communication, School of Design, worked to transform intimidating legal forms into more accessible and inviting documents.  
**‘Journey to Self’ Program**  
The Social Engagement Unit at the Dean of Students Office hosted a scholarship award ceremony for the ‘Journey to Self’ program, in partnership with [the Mofeed Amer Association](#), in memory of Salah Flah. This program seeks to bring together and empower Druze students at the university by establishing a framework for guided discussions on Druze identity and their challenges.