16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

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

AI and Criminal Justice

Prof. Eldar Haber, Faculty of Law, received a prestigious €2 million ERC Consolidator Grant for Recoding Justice. This five-year international project will examine generative AI across criminal justice, from crime prediction and investigations to prosecution, sentencing, incarceration, and rehabilitation, while developing policies for its fair, responsible, and rights-based use.

Road Safety in Minority Communities

Prof. Orna Braun-Appel, Emerita, School of Public Health; Prof. Gil Luria, Department of Human Services; and Prof. Hani Neuman, Head of the School of Social Work, received a grant from Israel's Ministry of Innovation, Science and Technology (MOST). Their project explores how community engagement and social capital can improve road safety in Arab and Bedouin communities under the 2025 Smart Transportation and Transport Infrastructure research program.

When AI Meets the Courtroom

A study by Prof. Oren Gazal-Ayal, Faculty of Law; Dr. Zohar Eliyosef, Faculty of Education; and Dr. Adir Salomon, Department of Information Systems, found that advanced AI models produced more consistent and accurate sentencing recommendations than human judges. Published in *Justice Quarterly*, the research highlights AI's potential to improve consistency and fairness in criminal sentencing.



Prof. Eldar Haber with the President of the State of Israel, Isaac Herzog (Credit: Prof. Eldar Haber)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Honoring a Voice for Peace and Compassion

The Haifa Lab for the Study of Religions awarded its annual Peace Prize to Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa for his humanitarian leadership and commitment to peace, compassion, and interfaith dialogue during the Israel–Hamas war. Presented at the Hub's annual symposium, the award recognizes efforts to advance mutual understanding and shared society.

Strategic Thinking in an Era of Global Change

The University of Haifa's National Security Center and the IDF's Dado Center for Interdisciplinary Military Studies held a joint symposium on how global shifts, technological advances, and emerging security challenges affect Israel's national security.



Prof. Uriel Simonsohn, Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Rector Mouna Maroun and Adv. Dov Weissglas (Credit: University of Haifa)

Advancing Global Rights for Older Persons

Prof. Israel (Issi) Doron, Department of Gerontology, participated in a historic UN Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva on drafting an international convention on older persons' rights. He emphasized addressing ageism to protect older adults' dignity and human rights worldwide.

LEARNING AND STUDENTS

Designing Bridges Across Cultures

Visual Communication Design students at the School of Design were selected to represent the University of Haifa in the international Manara Center competition promoting dialogue and tolerance across the Middle East. In the Inclusive Design course, they created a digital educational game inspired by the historic Hejaz Railway, exploring regional cultures through discovery and connection.

New Course: From Crisis to Action

Prof. Hagit Lernau and Adv. Rida Jaber, Faculty of Law, developed *From Crisis to Action: Exploring Efforts to Address Crime in Arab Society in Israel* through the Sustainability Initiative's call for new courses. Combining research and fieldwork, the course brings Jewish and Arab criminology students together to examine violent crime, engage with community initiatives, and develop practical strategies for social change.

From Classroom to Abu Dhabi: A First-Place Finish

University of Haifa Law students Noa Yosef, Yahya Manna, and Mika Talbi-Shain met through the Shared Society course, led by Prof. Faina Milman-Sivan and Adv. Dana Feinreich-Giloh. Launched after October 7, the course promotes dialogue, mediation, and consensus-building. The students developed a leadership workshop and educational videos on navigating difficult conversations during conflict. Their project won first place at the 2026 international Manara Youth Coexistence Initiative Showcase in Abu Dhabi.

OPERATIONS

New Academic Leadership Program Launches

The University of Haifa launched a Management and Leadership Program for heads of schools, departments, and academic units. Led by the Organizational Development Unit in the Human Resources Division, it supports academic leaders through professional development, collaborative learning, and leadership training.

What Does It Take to Plan the Campuses of Tomorrow?

In a new interview, Diana Shkolnik Goren, the University of Haifa's chief architect, discusses balancing long-term vision with everyday campus life while leading major development and construction projects. Her work spans strategic planning and the creation of inspiring spaces for learning, research, and community, helping shape the University's future.



2026 International Manara Youth Coexistence Initiative (Credit: Faculty of Law Facebook)