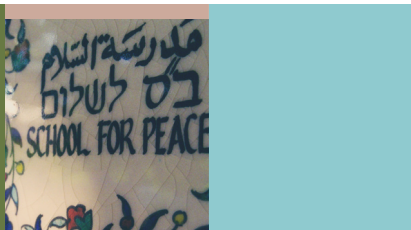




The School for Peace

in Wahat Al-Salam
~ Neve Shalom



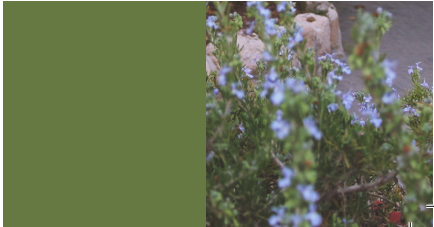
The School for Peace

WAHAT AL-SALAM ~ NEVE SHALOM

The School for Peace (SFP) at Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam (NSWAS) was established in 1979 as the first educational institution in Israel promoting broad scale change towards peace and more humane, egalitarian and just relations between Palestinians and Jews.

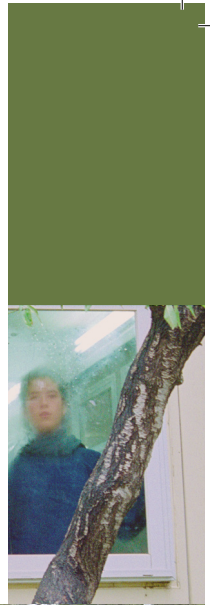
The School for Peace works with Jewish and Palestinian professional groups and runs special

programs for women, university students and youth, all which create a genuine egalitarian dialogue between the two people. Through workshops, training programs and special projects, the SFP develops participants' awareness of the conflict and their role in it, enabling them to take responsibility to bring about positive change in society and in the relations between Jews and Palestinians.



Over the last 40 years, 75,000 Jews and Palestinians have participated in School for Peace programs. Alongside its work within Israel, the SFP has also developed innovative programs working with Palestinians from the Palestinian Authority. A series of SFP cross-border programs was designed to boost profession-based synergy for social change involving architects, up and coming politicians, educators, health professionals and others. SFP remains one of the few peace organizations in Israel running joint programs with Palestinian partner organizations.

Neve Shalom - Wahat al-Salam is the only community in Israel where Jews and Palestinian Arab citizens of Israel live together purposefully, in equality and peace. For numerous visitors and program participants, this egalitarian village provides a safe and mutually accepted venue where both peoples feel at home and draw encouragement from the community's model of partnership and equality.



The School for Peace Method

The School for Peace has created a unique and world-renowned approach for working with groups in conflict. It emphasizes how the two groups relate to one another, rather than stressing interpersonal, individual dimension. Jewish and Palestinian participants meet and explore national and ethnic identity. They examine their interactions as a microcosm of relations in the larger society. With the help of Jewish and Arab facilitators, participants come to understand how their group's preconceived attitudes affect their relationship with 'the other'. Participants undergo a shift in perception, increasingly take responsibility for their part in the conflict, and are motivated to act to change the current reality.

The unique nature of the method recognizes the asymmetry in power relationships of groups in conflict. It puts the

conflict "on the table", making it clear that participants have come together to address, discuss and negotiate real issues that affect the two groups in conflict. In later phases, groups work together to identify common concerns and implement joint initiatives with the goal of creating change towards a more equal and just society.

The SFP's method is based on research, theory, evaluation and the development of best practices in the field of conflict resolution. The model has been studied by academics from Israel and abroad and hundreds of books and academic articles have been published about it. Staff from the SFP have trained and worked with groups in conflict all over the world, including in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Kosovo, South Africa, and Costa Rica.

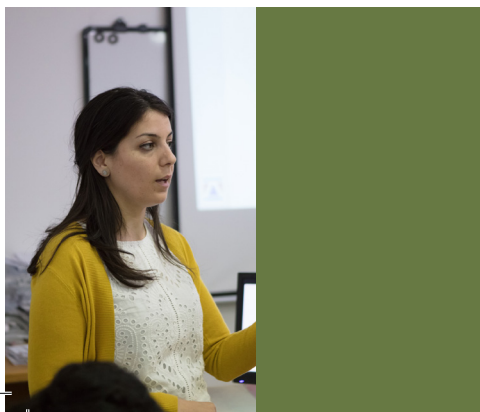
- Since 1979, more than 75,000 Jews and Palestinians have taken part in workshops and courses conducted by the School for Peace.
- Over 1,000 facilitators have been trained at the SFP. Many have become leaders in organizations that focus on Jewish-Arab issues, on peace and human rights, and social change in Israel and Palestine.
- The School for Peace's professional model in working with groups in conflict has become the leading method in the field in Israel and has been applied in conflicts around the world.
- Graduates of courses of the School for Peace state that the courses constituted a formative experience and have made work on the conflict central to their personal and professional lives.
- The School for Peace was the first peace organization in Israel to work with academic institutions and has developed courses in four leading universities and a number of colleges.
- The knowledge developed by the SFP with academics in Israel and around the world has contributed to the literature of conflict resolution and has advanced practice here and abroad.
- Palestinians have attended School for Peace programs under varying political circumstances, frequently during periods of extreme conflict. They express satisfaction with the equal status given to Jews and Palestinians in this work, with the methods used, and with the ability of SFP courses to promote change.

Creating Agents of Change

The flagship activity of the School for Peace is the 'Change Agents' programs for professional groups, encouraging activism and work towards a more just society. The Change Agents program uses a comprehensive model developed by the School for Peace which brings together Palestinians and Jews from specific professional disciplines: lawyers, mental health professionals, journalists, environmentalists, architects and planners, physicians, young politicians, teachers and others. These professionals explore how national, ethnic and professional identity affects their beliefs and their own profes-

sional group's relationships with 'the other'. With their professional expertise, they identify injustices, common concerns and shared issues they can work to change. The programs help them develop skills and tools to impact society and effect larger groups. The hundreds of participants in our Change Agents programs are influencing decisions in the institutions and organizations where they work, and are advancing equality, justice and peace in Israeli and Palestinian society.

Because of our ability to build equal relationships with partners and maintain them through difficult periods of conflict, since 1993, we have also been able to work with Palestinians from the Palestinian Authority. This is done in partnership with Palestinian peace and human rights NGOs in the Palestinian Authority, working together to learn about issues, understand the nuances, and seek shared solutions. While exploring professional issues on both sides of the border, participants also conduct simulated negotiations to examine potential solutions to existing problems and to build hope for future peace. Support for these programs has come from the European Union and the US government.



URBAN PLANNERS, ARCHITECTS AND CIVIL ENGINEERS

In a conflict where land is a central concern, planning has become a tool for control over minorities and occupied people. This course, organized in partnership with the Arab Center for Alternative Planning, trains urban planners, architects and civil engineers to address issues of community rights, transparency, and equal access.



PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- **publicized the planning process for Harish and the Wadi Ara region and demanded involvement for Arab local municipalities in the decision making process in the area.**
- **promoted urban renewal in the Arab municipalities.**
- **drafted and promoted a petition to the government against house demolition policies in Arab towns which was supported by hundreds of architects, planners and engineers.**

CHANGE AGENTS COURSE FOR LAWYERS

The program trains and supports lawyers in addressing issues of Jewish-Palestinian relations in their practice. These include discrimination and marginalization of minorities, and the legal dimension of human rights and social justice work. The course prepares participants to navigate the complexities of international law and human rights in the context of changing geopolitical realities.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- **successfully petitioned the Supreme Court to order a polluting factory next to an elementary school in East Jerusalem, to stop polluting when school is in session.**
- **furthered the employment of Arab citizens in Israeli government ministries and agencies.**
- **gone on to pursue human rights law as their profession**

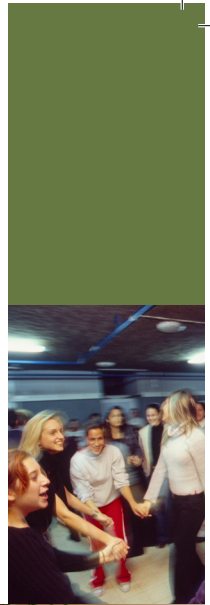


LEADERSHIP IN MIXED CITIES

In Israel's 'mixed cities', Jewish and Arab residents share public space, democratic institutions and service providers, yet they generally do not mix; special effort is needed to reduce fear, create trust, and build shared community. This course works with cadres of influential people in mixed cities, developing their conflict resolution skills and building networks of Jews and Arabs in key community positions.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- published and distributed educational material to schools to reduce conflict around Jewish and Arab holidays.
- established a joint Arab-Jewish political party which ran in local elections in Karmiel.
- started an Arabic language study program in the mixed Jewish and Arab city of Jaffa.



UP AND COMING POLITICIANS

In 2016-18 this program, funded by the European Union Peace Initiatives Fund, worked with 120 potential members of parliament and elected local representatives in Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Three groups worked for over 18 months to gain an in-depth understanding of the political situation from both sides, and initiated projects to alleviate conflict and build bridges across the divide.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- assumed leadership positions in «Peace Now».
- become embassy advisors to better serve the Arab population.
- joined the leadership of the Two States One Homeland movement.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

When there is ongoing conflict, the environment is often neglected and weaker populations suffer the most from the impact of pollution, overcrowding, and lack of environmental infrastructure. This program works with environmentalists to address the impact of the Jewish-Arab conflict on the environment and to advance environmental justice.

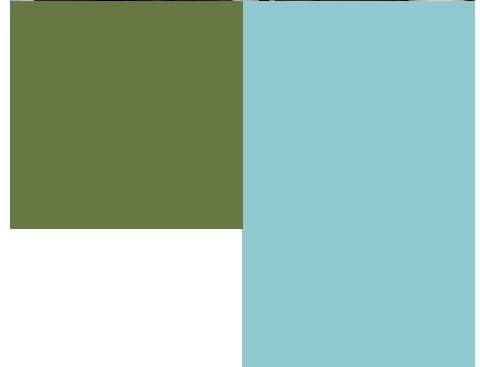
PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- changed a regional planning decision that would have relocated a Bedouin community alongside a hazardous waste zone.
- developed organic seed exchanges between Palestinian and Israeli farmers.
- assisted a West Bank village to become connected to the electric grid.



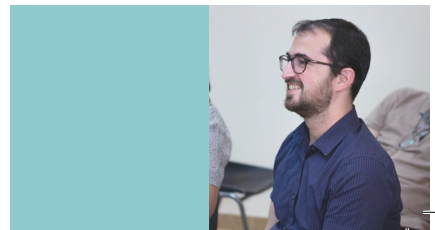
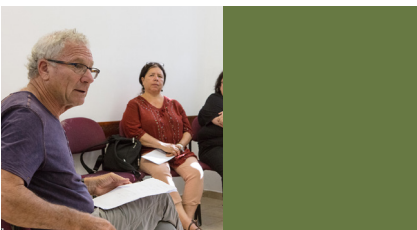
MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

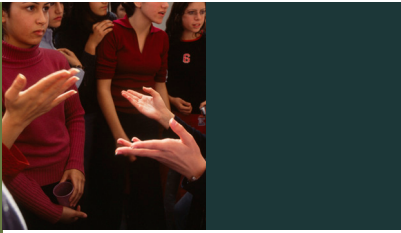
The SFP runs courses training mental health professionals to work with groups in conflict; to integrate socio-political issues into their therapeutic work; and to raise their commitment to work for peace and equality. In 2017-2019 the United States Agency for International Development funded a program that trained 80 participants from Israel and the West Bank to work with specific issues relevant to mental health in a reality of occupation and oppression.



PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- assumed leadership positions in «Peace Now».
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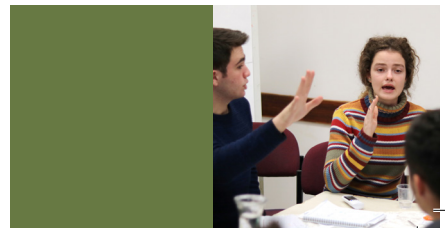
Other Programs

TEACHING TEACHERS

The School for Peace has always worked with teachers to bring the issues of the conflict into the classroom in a constructive manner. Based on an Arabic/Hebrew literary anthology it published in 2012, the SFP developed a special program that gives Arab and Jewish literature teachers the opportunity to build and implement a curriculum that brings thousands of students into contact with the life and culture of those they have often seen only as enemies.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- organized an exchange of Jewish and Arab schools where students taught one another.
- received approval for an experimental study program and matriculation in the literature of the other.
- presented at a national teacher's conference how to teach the poetry of Mahmoud Darwish, Palestine's national poet.



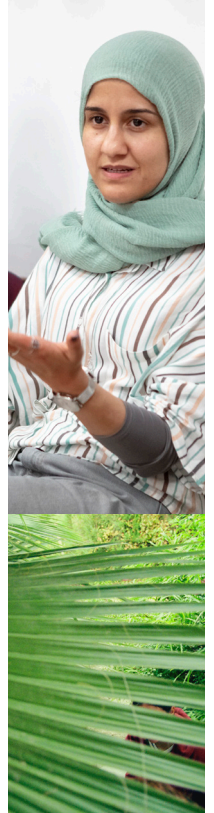
WOMEN'S COURSES

The mission of the School for Peace is to build a society based on equality and peace. Women have a unique perspective and contribution in the peace process. The SFP conducts a variety of programs and courses that empower women and enhance their understanding of key subjects like leadership, identity, feminism, and women's role in peacemaking. In 2010 The SFP together with Tawasul conducted a change agents course for 40 Israeli & Palestinian journalists that was funded by the USAID. The

SFP together with the School for Social work in Tel-Aviv University conducted the program "Women in a Time of change" for 15 years for Arab & Jewish women from underprivileged communities. The SFP has also launched a cross-cultural capacity-building course to strengthen the presence of young Arab and Jewish women activists in mainstream and social media. Participants learn to produce short videos and make optimal use of Facebook, Twitter and other social media platforms.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- produced a play reflecting the life of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails.
- started a women's group with women from the neighboring communities of Migdal Haemek (Jewish) and Yafia (Arab).
- created a blog addressing issues of inequality, peace and politics.



YOUTH ENCOUNTERS

Since 1982, the School for Peace has conducted encounters for Jewish and Arab teens from high schools throughout Israel. The longest-running SFP program, Youth Encounters have served over 30,000 young participants in three-day, intensive, face-to-face meetings and activities. Working with youth at this impressionable age is vitally important. At SFP, they meet “the other”, explore cultural and political issues together, negotiate on the future relations between Jews and Palestinians in Israel, and weigh what it means to build a shared future. Other SFP youth programs include long-term workshops to develop joint projects, leadership training, and preparation for youth peace delegations to other countries.

PARTICIPANTS IN THIS PROGRAM HAVE:

- testified to the life-changing impact of these encounters.
- gone on to become involved as adults in peace education and social activism.



ACADEMIC COURSES

A pioneer in peace studies in Israel's universities since 1990, the School for Peace teaches undergraduate and graduate students about theoretical and practical characteristics of conflict, usually in conjunction with a long-term encounter between Jewish and Arab students. Tel Aviv University, the University of Haifa, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, and the Ruppin Academic Center are among the venues. Eye-opening content and brave encounter engender a deep understanding of groups in conflict, the Jewish-Arab conflict in particular. Participants, students in the social sciences, often go on to earn advanced degrees; many ultimately become decision makers and policy shapers in Israeli society.

PASSING THE TORCH TO THE NEXT GENERATION:

A few outstanding graduates are today teaching similar courses at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa, the Interdisciplinary Center Herzliya, and Harvard University.

ACTION PROGRAM FOR SFP GRADUATES

Graduates of School for Peace programs have impressive potential for positive social action. They are powerfully motivated to effect change in today's reality and have a keen understanding of the issues in the localities where they live and work. The SFP has been organizing its graduates into profession-based communities to enhance the sustainability of their activism with additional skills, support and guidance. Graduate communities have been established thus far for urban planners, architects, and civil engineers, mental health professionals, and leaders in mixed (Jewish/Arab) cities. The next phase of the SFP is to create an Arab-Jewish network of responsible leaders of 400 graduates from all fields who we have trained to inspire them, connect them and invest in them to advance Peace and Equality in Israel and Palestine.



TRAINING FACILITATORS TO WORK WITH GROUPS IN CONFLICT

The School for Peace has trained over a thousand Jews and Palestinians to facilitate encounters between groups in conflict. The SFP was the first, and for many years the only, organization in the country to run such training. Today's trainees, now drawn both from Israel and the Palestinian Authority, learn the SFP approach through lectures, long-term encounter, and facilitation practice. They study group facilitation theory as well as post-colonialism, social identity, and critical pedagogy. The SFP also offers similar training to groups abroad.

MOST GRADUATES OF THIS TRAINING:

- **Have integrated Jewish-Arab relations into the conduct of their professional lives.**
- **Many are now leaders in human rights and peace work in Israel and elsewhere.**





Research Center

The Research Center examines the political and social dimensions of Israeli society, focusing particularly on its Jewish and Palestinian citizens. It provides systematic documentation and academic supervision of School for Peace programs. "Pulse", a journal inaugurated in 2018, is now the Center's main publication. Contributors to the first issue, in Hebrew and Arabic - "Obtainable Alliances: The Case of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel" – included 18 prominent Jewish and Arab political figures, university professors,

heads of human rights NGOs and public intellectuals. The center also convenes conferences in conjunction with academic institutions. After Israel enacted its "Nation State Law" in July of 2018, the Center held an international conference with the Institute for Advanced Studies of Hebrew University and the Walter Leibach Institute of Tel Aviv University on "Constitutionalism, Establishment of Constitutions, and Sovereignty - a Theoretical and Comparative Perspective."



Meet the Staff

Dr. Nava Sonnenschein, SFP Director—has a PhD. in Education focusing on the issue of identity and conflict. Political activism has always been a part of her life and she is a member of one of the four founding families of Neve Shalom-Wahat al Salam. She has trained thousands of Israelis and Palestinians in facilitating groups in conflict and in becoming change agents and political activists in Israeli and Palestinian society.

Dr. Roi Silberberg, Projects Director—holds a PhD. in the Philosophy of Peace Education. In an elective course on gender he had his first exposure to the SFP method. Fascinated, he enrolled in various SFP programs which convinced him to shift direction in life. He became a facilitator in SFP programs and then a project director. Roi is also the founder of AMAL, which trains Arab university students to teach spoken Arabic to hundreds of Jewish children in Israeli Hebrew-language schools.

Harb Amara, Projects Director is a social worker from the Nazareth region who has worked for many years in family welfare and domestic violence prevention. He graduated from his first School for Peace program in 2008. His experience in the program convinced him that involvement with the SFP is among the best and only ways to bring about change in the country. He holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Social Work and a diploma in advanced business administration.

Adv. Ameer Fakhoury, Director of the Research Center—is a political activist, lawyer and doctoral student in political and cultural sociology. He is a research fellow at the Forum for Regional Thinking and was introduced to the School for Peace by his partner, an urban planner and doctoral student who participated in the planners' programs. Ameer participated in the first program for Up and Coming Politicians in 2016-2017.

Fatin Abu Gosh, Administrative Director—has a Bachelor’s degree in business administration and marketing. She has been trained as a facilitator at the SFP and has facilitated youth workshops. Fatin has been working at the School for Peace since 2006 when her youngest daughter began studying at the NSWAS primary school. She and her family live in Abu Gosh.

Bob Fenton, Development Coordinator—became familiar with NSWAS in the late 1970s when two of the community’s founders were traveling through the U.S. When he moved to Israel in the early 1980s, he took a facilitators course run in conjunction with the SFP and became involved in various peace activities in the country. Since 2014 he has worked with the SFP and the NSWAS Communications and Development Department.

There are 25 freelance facilitators who have been trained and now work in the various SFP programs.



From left to right: Roi, Tova, Ibrahim, Nava and Harb.

PUBLICATIONS BY THE SFP



Power of Dialogue, ed. Sonnenschein, N., 2019: Rutgers University Press (EN, DE).



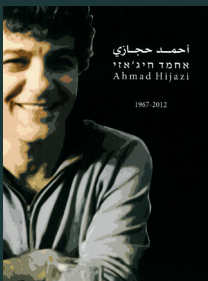
“Threat and the Majority Identity”, Sonnenschein, N., Bekerman, Z. & Horenczyk, G., 2010. In *Group Dynamics: Theory, Research & Practice*, Vol. 14(1): 47-65.



“Obtainable Alliances: The Case of the Arab Palestinian Minority in Israel”, eds. Fakhoury, A., 2018: School for Peace (AR, HE).



Dialogue Challenging Identity, Sonnenschein, N., 2008: Pardes (HE).



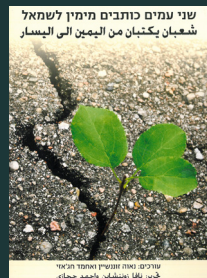
Ahmed Hijazi—His Writings, 2012: School for Peace (EN, HE, AR).



Palestinian-Jewish Youth Encounters at the School for Peace, eds. Halabi, R. & Zak, M., 2006: School for Peace (HE, EN).



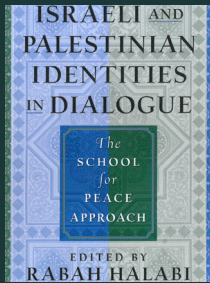
An Ethnographic Account of Power Struggle in Jewish-Palestinian Dialogue Encounters, Sonnenschein, N. & Bekerman, Z., 2010. In *Peace & Conflict Studies*, Vol. 17: 307-346.



Two People Write from Right to Left – Anthology of Israeli and Palestinian Poetry and Stories, eds. Sonnenschein, N. & Hijazi, A., 2006: School for Peace (AR, HE).



Education of the Oppressed and the Road to Liberation: Writings of Paulo Freire, trans. & ed. Halabi, R., 2005: School for Peace (AR).



Israeli and Palestinian Identities in Dialogue: The School for Peace Approach, ed. Halabi, R., 2004: Rutgers University Press (EN, DE, AR, HE).

Join Us in Building the Future

NSWAS was one of Israel's first social action peace organizations and has been working for over forty years advancing an egalitarian, pluralistic and just society. The School for Peace does not receive government funding and relies on your support to reach an increasing number of youth and adults with a vision for a shared future.

The demand for our programs is growing and your generous contribution can continue to broaden the path of peace.

Contributions to the School for Peace at Neve Shalom Wahat al-Salam can be made to:

Bank Hapoalim #12/690
King George 16, Jerusalem
Account Name: The School for Peace, Amutat Yedide Hamosa-dot
Hachinuchiim
Account # 694344
Swift: poalilit
IBAN: IL64-0126-9000-0000-0694-344

Tax deductible contributions can be made through a Friends Association in your country.

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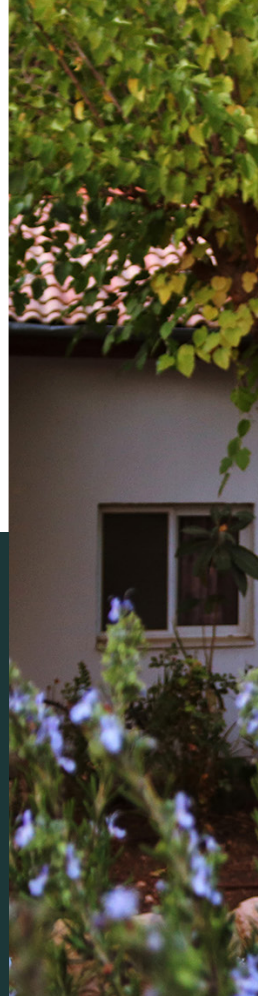
For more information about our work and upcoming activities:

 www.sfpeace.org

 [The School for Peace](#)

Watch special videos about our activities on the Wahat Al-Salam ~ Neve Shalom YouTube page.





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