

# Annual Activity Report 2018



*The Domari Society  
of Gypsies in Jerusalem*

## General information

**Location of the Domari Society:**  
Jerusalem

**Name and address of the premises where the services are carried out**  
**The Domari Society:**  
Domari Community Centre  
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The Domari Society  
of Gypsies in Jerusalem

## Brief description of the organization

Domari Society of Gypsies in Jerusalem was founded in the year 2000 by Amoun Sleem. Ms. Sleem, a Dom herself, experienced first-hand the severe discrimination, cultural marginalization, poverty and adult illiteracy among the society. Her familiarity with the needs of this group of people was the impetus for her dream of founding the Domari Society.

She started the organization out of her own home where it functioned for its first five years of existence. In 2005, the community center, located in Shu'afat of East Jerusalem, was opened, and it is here that the organization still resides.

The center is a warm and welcoming place and offers the members of the Dom community a secure space to gather and receive practical support and educational resources. The center provides afterschool tutoring, job skills training, literacy courses, humanitarian aid, and programs that foster cultural pride.

For further information you can have a look at our homepage: [www.domarisociety.com](http://www.domarisociety.com)

## Range of Focus for 2018

Our work is focused on the advancement of four main aspects:

- Education for Dom children
- Initiatives for empowerment of Dom women
- Awareness campaigns for the Dom Society
- Preserving the Domari culture

In order to impact these areas of focus we offered a range of different activities that will be highlighted in this report.

## Cooperation/Membership

We consider cooperation as a necessary tool for development processes. Therefore, we maintain partnerships with different stakeholders, being aware of the importance of each pillar: local communities, authorities, other organizations and individuals at a national and international level.

**The following organizations:**

- Kinderpostzegels, from the Netherlands
- Friends of Domari, from the Netherlands
- The Dom Research Center, from the US
- British Shalom Salaam Trust, UK

# The Domari Center projects in 2018

## Pedagogy Sessions for the baby care

*Project Day: Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> 2018*

*Donors: Kinderpostzegels*

### **Goals**

- To increase the awareness of Dom women to the health of their family and children
- To improve the child care environment of Dom and raise babies in comfortableness
- To improve the status of Dom women within their families and their society

### **Objectives**

- To provide the knowledge of infant care to the Dom women with professional advises
- To increase confidence of Dom mothers in their baby care skills and give them moral or psychological support

### **Implemented activities**

The lecture is on October 17<sup>th</sup> for three hours (10:00-13:00). The teacher was Janny Sjaak from kinderpostzegels, who is an educational specialist. She let Dom mothers talk about the home environment using some pictures on cards. Then show two thought-provoking videos. Mothers got professional advises about their home environment and infant care skills.

### **Achievements**

The lecture provide the Dom mothers the opportunity to think about their home environment for their babies. It was good opportunity for Dom mothers. In addition, talking about their own problems and opinions with other Dom mothers was also important for themselves. It relieved their stress and provided psychological care. Besides, they got professional advises about their home environment and infant care skills. The lecture increased the self-confidence of the participants. It will improve the status of Dom women within their families and their society.

This time they learned about baby care. The teacher recommended that they continue learning about their home environment for their children, and they should have the lecture about the care for teenager.



# Educational Program

*Project duration:* January 2018 – December 2018

*Donors:* Kinderpostzegels, British Shalom Salaam Trust, Dom Research Center, Friends of Domari

## Goal

- To raise the educational level of Dom children
- To increase the respect of their parents for their children's education
- To give the children a broader choice of future works

## Objectives

- *To improve students' results*

We try to improve our students' results by offering lessons and assistance with homework or study for exams.

- *To Stop the children dropping out the school and encourage them to go into higher education.*

Dom children have an exceptionally high dropout rate due to the pressures of discrimination and poverty.

We support their study so that they can do well at the school.

Furthermore, we help them the study to enter the higher education.

- *To increase the involvement of the families in the education process*

The Domari family tend to think that helping the house work is more important for the children than their study.

We hope to change the thinking. The family can have

a significant impact on the child's desire to continue

learning through this program. The involvement of

the parents facilitates the cooperation between the center,

the school and the families and allows us to do

the best possible for the children's progress.

- *To raise the self-confidence of cultural identity*

The younger Dom generation has become less interested

in the ancient traditions and culture of the Domari people,

preferring rather to assimilate into the neighboring Arab

communities. This self-imposed assimilation can be

attributed to the discrimination and marginalization

that the Dom people face. As a result, there are economic

and social limitations that come from being identified

and recognized as Dom. These limitations are both

internally and externally imposed. We believe educating

the younger generations will start to break down these

limiting barriers.

## Implemented activities

The center provided three lessons every week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, in Arabic, English and Mathematics. In this year, 15 students (8 girls, 7 boys, 6-15 years old) participated in the program. We try to focus predominantly on the development of girls,



because they are treated unequally and are disadvantaged within the Domari community. There are two teachers (Mustafa Ibrahim and Muneera Joulani) to teach them.

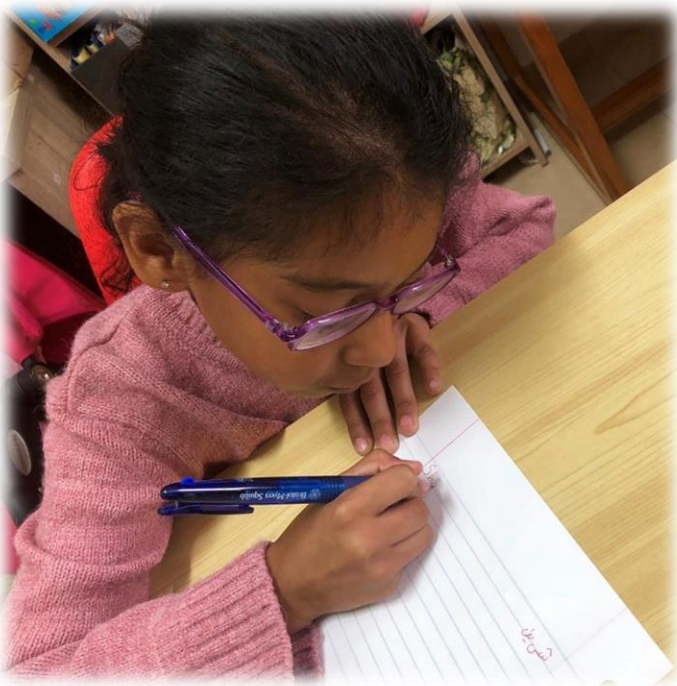
In addition, we open the rooms almost every day in the whole year of 2018 so that children come to do their homework, study for exams, ask teachers about their studies. We provided meals to both students and teachers, and covered the bus transportation fees. In addition, we provided the students with necessary school supplies at the beginning of the school year.

### **Achievements**

Children come to the center in order to study almost every day. It's very good to make it daily routine in order to get good grades in their school. There is no student dropped out the school. They all go to the school almost every day without big problems. 4 students entered to high school from junior high school.







## Receive visitors

*Project day: throughout the year of 2018*

### Goals

- To let people know about the Domari culture
- To share the culture and the problem to solve with Gypsies from other country

### Objectives

- To talk about Domari history and culture to the guests

### Visitors of this year

- Gypsy group from Hungary
- Visitors from UK
- Women group from Israel
- Gypsy group from Norway

### Implemented activities

We welcome all guests. We ate lunch together, drunk coffee, talked about the Domari culture and explained the history of Domari. With the Gypsy guests, we talked about the Gypsy life of the country of each other. We made good friendships with them. For the non Gypsy guests, we explain the background of Domari and let them know the problem in Domari life.

### Gypsies From Hungary





**From UK**



**From Israel**



## Drum class

*Project: Aug. 2018 ~*

*Donors: Friends of Domari*

### Goals

- To give the children a broader choice of future works
- To learn how fun and beautiful playing music is
- To raise the self-confidence of cultural Identity about music

### Objectives

- To teach children the basic methods of the drum.

### Implemented activities

The center provided a lesson every week. 7 students (4 boys, 3 girls) attend the class generally. The teacher is *Wisaam Murad* from *Sabreen* which is an association for artistic development of music.

### Achievements

The class just started August of this year, but Children enjoyed the class and now they acquired some skills of Drum. The class will continue the next year so that the children will acquire more advanced skill.





## Exhibition

We participated in Annual Holiday Bazaar of Sunbula in Jerusalem. We exhibited Domari handmade crafts and traditional foods and donuts.









## Working with donors and partners

Our organization benefits greatly from the support of individual givers, partners and other foundations or organizations. They give their time, expertise and funding to ensure that we continue our work among the Domari community. Without the help of our committed donors and partners, we could not reach as many Dom people as we do.

We are thankful for all our donors and partners and hope to continue our relations in 2016. A relationship between donor and beneficiary must involve consistent communication and transparency. The Domari House commits to working with all of our donors in a trustworthy atmosphere. We believe that the values of integrity, intentionality and honesty are the best ways of developing a vision and working on the vision together.

## Upcoming courses for 2019

- Educational Program  
Continuing the additional lessons
- Hairdressing course
  1. Follow-up course
  2. Starting a new group of Dom women
- Catering Course
  1. Follow-up course
  2. Starting a new group of Dom women

# The Domari Team



Louise & Amoun



Amoun – Director Domari Center



Jannie & Cowsar



Muna & Amoun



Muneera



Xadra

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