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ELEM/Youth in Distress in Israel granted Special Consultative Status by the United Nations in the Field of Troubled Youth

-- ELEM's selection marks the first time an Israeli organization has been chosen by the U.N. Economic and Social Council to receive special consultative status in the field of at-risk youth --

New York, NY, August 26, 2019 - The U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has granted ELEM/Youth in Distress in Israel, Special Consultative Status on the matter of at-risk youth. ELEM is the first Israeli organization dealing with youth in distress that has received this status. This role will allow ELEM to share the organization's decades of experience, assist the U.N. council's work, advise about developments and phenomenon in the field of youth in distress, develop professional relationships with similar organizations around the world and raise global awareness about the importance of supporting teens and young people at risk.

This honor was granted by the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) following a recommendation by a panel consisting of 19 representatives of U.N. member nations. ELEM met strict criteria, including innovation, independence, organizational structure, and promotion of social and legislative change. In addition, this honor recognizes the unique methods ELEM uses with youth. ELEM seeks out and identifies vulnerable youth in a variety of situations, guides them through therapy, mentoring and assistance that allow these youths to reclaim their lives and become contributing members of society.

Inbal Dor Kerbel, ELEM's executive director said, "ELEM is proud to humbly represent Israel in the United Nations and be the first Israeli organization to consult the U.N. about youth in distress. This is a golden opportunity to raise awareness of the issue, learn from other organizations worldwide, and have a global impact. This is a very touching acknowledgment of the hard, years-long work done by hundreds

of ELEM's staff members and thousands of volunteers, supporting youth in distress."

ELEM/Youth in Distress in Israel was founded 36 years ago, when New York social worker,, Ann Bialkin, learned that Israeli youth in distress needed programs that dealt specifically with their needs. ELEM was created by social workers from the USA and Israel with social responsibility in mind to reach the goal of changing these youths' circumstances. In the past year, ELEM helped tens of thousands of young men and women, be it on the streets, at ELEM's youth centers, on-line, by mentorship towards independence and more. ELEM's president in Israel is Nava Barak, with Shlomo Yanai as Chairman.

Lenore Ruben, President of friends of ELEM in the USA said,"As the issues in the the middle east and Israel get more complicated, so do the problems the youth experience in these regions. There is a great deal of satisfaction in knowing that the effective, unique programs used at ELEM will be shared with other countries through the U.N."

ELEM specializes in recognizing crises that stem from the reality of youth in Israel. This is accomplished by developing and practicing innovative, relevant solutions to deal with those crises, taking into account the specific individualized needs of different demographics. ELEM runs 82 different projects in 42 cities all across Israel. These projects serve and assist 21,000 youths annually. ELEM employs 285 therapy and counseling professionals working alongside 2000 volunteers who create long-lasting, meaningful relationships with the youth. Together, they meet these young people on their own turf: on the streets and clubs, on-line, at schools and in their communities during the afternoons.

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