



2025 Nuremberg International Human Rights Award

On Saturday, 16 November 2024, the jury for the Nuremberg International Human Rights Award, chaired by the Lord Mayor of the City of Nuremberg, Marcus König, held a digital meeting and made the following decision for its sixteenth award:

The award winner is the organisation Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF)

The jury gave the following reasoning for its decision:

Since 1995, the reconciliation initiative Parents Circle – Families Forum (PCFF) has brought together Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost family members in the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. The initiative operates out of two offices: one is located in Ramat Efal and one in Beit Jala. The organisation comprises around 750 members and a twenty-strong joint Israeli-Palestinian team.

The members are united in their grief and offer educational programmes aimed at promoting empathy between Israelis and Palestinians. Together they campaign for an end to the bloodshed and call for reconciliation. Their commitment to promoting non-violent solutions to the conflict stems from their shared experience of loss. “We have lost loved ones, and we do not want others to experience the same suffering.”

In one of their encounter programmes, a dialogue meeting, an Israeli and a Palestinian come together before an audience to share their experience of loss and their courageous decision to promote reconciliation. Over the past twenty years it has been possible to reach more than 250,000 people with this format. It has also been used in school classes. Another of the initiative’s activities is an annual memorial ceremony when Israelis and Palestinians mourn together, acknowledging the suffering and lifelong grief brought about by the loss of loved ones in a conflict, regardless of national identity.

Even after 7 October 2023, the PCFF has remained steadfast in its commitment despite increased protests against its work as a result of the Hamas terror attack on that day. In the midst of war and restrictions on mobility, PCFF staff and members have managed to continue meeting via Zoom in order to find ways to continue ongoing programmes with variations on traditional formats and to do intensive work on social media. An example of this is the annual summer camp with its one-week programme for young Israelis and Palestinians which took place in Cyprus in August 2024.





PCFF works to foster dialogue and build bridges. It is precisely in polarised contexts that the recognition of those who promote dialogue strengthens the idea that understanding and empathy can indeed prevail over hostility. PCFF serves as an example of how constructive interaction between opposing sides can be possible. This award acknowledges the fact that dialogue with victims of conflict is to be seen as a strength which can encourage others to break free from their own narrow chambers and their fears.

By awarding the 2025 Nuremberg International Human Rights Award to PCFF, the jury honours the organisation Parents Circle – Families Forum which, even in the most difficult of times, is keeping channels of communication between Israelis and Palestinians open. Although polarisation can often make any dialogue seem pointless, honouring such efforts is a reminder to the world of the fact that progress often starts with small, courageous steps – with being curious about the other side.

The award will be presented on Sunday, 21 September 2025, at Nuremberg Opera House.

Nuremberg, 16 November 2024

