

TAMAR SCHWARTZ BIO

Tamar Schwartz is CEO of Women's Spirit, the only NGO (non-governmental organization) in Israel that provides women survivors of abuse with long-term solutions to escape their extremely difficult situation. The group's focus is on employment and financial empowerment, as the way to break the cycle of violence. Visiting from Israel, she will also review the impact of the current war in Israel and Gaza on women survivors of abuse.

Before becoming CEO of Women's Spirit in 2015, Tamar Schwartz served for 8 years as CEO of Mesila, Tel Aviv's special unit for Refugees and Migrant Workers. At Mesila, she worked to change perceptions and implement new procedures, on local and national levels, to benefit the community and establish better services. Her work focused on aiding the helpless, most importantly children at risk and women victims of violence. She was instrumental in establishing kindergartens, libraries, after school programs, educational centers, and facilities for human trafficking victims.

Ms. Schwartz has won several prestigious awards for her unique work. She holds a BA in Social Work from Ben Gurion University and an MA in Interdisciplinary Art Therapy with a specialty in Holistic Health from Lesley College. She is married and has three children.