



## WORKSHOPS



**Miriam Toukan** (Arabic: **مريم طوقان**, Hebrew: **מרים טוקאן**), singer, song writer and a Lawyer (Born July 6) in I'billin village in the Galilee to a teacher Waseim Toukan and his wife Mokhlisah Zeidan who are a Melkite Greek Catholic couple from I'billin. Miriam Toukan was the first Arab participant of KokhavNolad, an Israeli song contest styled after American Idol, and the first to sing in Arabic on the show in a prime time.

Being the first Arabic participant, Miriam Toukan received a large amount of media attention compared to other contestants. When she was so close to reach the finals, several articles were written on this topic, a central question being whether the show, which is a symbol of Israeli consensus, could afford to have an Arabic singer as its winner.

Singing for tolerance is nothing new for Miriam who in 2004 was chosen to take a part in an international musical project sponsored by the European Union called "Youth". Young musicians from the countries with conflicts met in Germany for 3 weeks to work on an international album called Peace. Today Toukan is also a lawyer she obtained her LL.B. from HaifaUniversity. And interested in International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and human rights, in these days she's going through training through the association for civil rights (ACRI) and the ICRC.

Miriam is identified with the agenda of dialogue and co-existence, raising a call for Awareness and appreciation for human and civil rights which must be promoted widely and early on and among all sectors of Israeli society to have human solidarity love and respect everywhere here and in the whole world. She believes that a public more aware of the complex fields of civil liberties and human rights is better equipped to stand up for its rights, and more prepared to respect the rights of others.

In 2011 Miriam was chosen to be a member in the "Mador " of Ministry of culture

And a member in Moving In Peace organization, which deals with various social problems in Israel, such as the mutual relation between Jews and Arabs, poverty, and intercultural relations between the different ethnic groups.

Miriam is also a member in E.L.C. association (English Language Center), a group of young academics working with children from neglected Arab villages to improve their English.

Miriam is working on her first Hebrew\Arabic Album, which is supposed to be released in 2013.

In workshops Miriam talks about identity, raises question on civil rights, sings together with people and calls for peace in the Middle East!