The Struggle for Peace: Examining Peace Movements in Israel

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What factors allow a group movement to achieve its aims in just a few years, as opposed to a generational long struggle and only limited success?
Case Studies

- Four Mothers Movement
- Parents Circle-Families Forum
Four Mothers Movement

- Founded in 1998
- Goal: unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon
- Disbanded in 2000 because their goal had been accomplished
- Mobilization
- Framing in the media
Four Mothers (continued)

- Political support
- Benefits from political sectarianism
- Goal formation: narrow, focused
- Evidence of group’s influence on public opinion
- Election of Ehud Barak and the unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon
Founded in 1995, still an active and growing organization today

Goals:
1. “To create a framework of reconciliation between two peoples that takes into account that any peace agreement must include an infrastructure for the process of reconciliation”
2. “To work towards an end to violence and towards achieving an accepted political agreement”
3. “To influence the public and the political decision makers to choose dialogue and the path of peace over violence, in order to achieve a just settlement based on empathy and understanding”
4. “To avoid the use of bereavement for further violence and retribution”
Programs and activities

2011 Gallup Poll
The Four Mothers Movement, because of their effective strategies and single, concrete goal, was able to achieve its aims within only two years of its formation.

The Parents Circle-Families Forum, while certainly not failing, still has a long struggle ahead of them to achieve peace between Palestinians and Israelis, an effort that may take many generations.


