

THE INDEPENDENCE INITIATIVE

HEADQUARTERS
OF THE CAMPAIGN
for a Free and
Democratic Israel

A New Social-Constitutional Contract

The Independence Initiative cuts across political boundaries, beliefs, and opinions. It can serve as the path to union, hope, cohesion, and equal rights for all.

After 75 years of independence, the time has come to establish in the State of Israel a democratic and stable system that realizes a healthy balance among the three branches of government, guarantees the protection of human and civil rights, and safeguards the supremacy of the law.

A one-time opportunity has arisen from the profound crisis of early 2023 in Israeli society: a constitutional-historical moment, which could lead to establishing a constitution through broad consensus. If the opportunity is seized, this could be the start of building a bridge across the divisions that have opened.

The Consent Process

Fundamental change in the system of governance must be undertaken with broad public consent. Reaching such an agreement requires serious discussion, deep listening to the various sides, and adequate opportunity to reach a middle ground. The process must include a significant public component and incorporate representatives from the variety of opinions and sectors of Israeli society. The discussions will take place according to agreed procedural rules, and subject to essential restrictions in regard to the content of the arrangements that may be accepted – it will be mandatory to respect the rights of the individual and the rights of the minority, to ensure the carrying out of free elections, and to safeguard the commitment to the values of the Declaration of Independence.

To ensure a process free from external influences, it will be agreed, that until the process is completed or until the procedures for establishing and amending Basic Laws are settled, whichever comes later:

1. The Supreme Court's authority to conduct judicial review based on Basic Laws will not be limited;
2. No politicization of the Office of the Attorney General will be permitted;
3. The Judicial Selection Committee will not be controlled by the coalition, the government, or the court.

If we operate accordingly, future generations will be endowed with a stable Jewish and democratic state, social solidarity, and agreement on the fundamental principles that will guide the organization of society in Israel.

The basic constitutional principles of the STATE OF ISRAEL will be consolidated in the constitution

and will be based on the values of the Declaration of Independence, including:

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1. Israel, the national state of the Jewish people, is a Jewish and democratic state that also constitutes an egalitarian home for the minorities within it and for every Israeli who lives there.
2. Free and fair elections are the foundation of democratic government in Israel. Election results determine the composition of the government that serves, based on the confidence of the Knesset.
3. All state authorities are subject to the rule of law.
4. The constitution will consist of Basic Laws in which state values, the structure and nature of government, and human rights will be enshrined, all in the spirit of the Declaration of Independence.
5. Basic Laws are the highest level of legislation in Israel. Basic Laws will be changed only through a special procedure and by a Knesset supermajority that guarantees broad consensus.
6. The judicial system in Israel is independent. Judges are appointed in a professional and transparent procedure that ensures their independence, and not through political control. Court decisions are the law of the land. The Supreme Court sits at the head of the judiciary. Among their other duties, justices of the Supreme Court have the sole authority to determine whether laws are compatible with Basic Laws and to interpret Basic Laws in accordance with the foundational principles of the Declaration of Independence.
7. Human rights in Israel will be enshrined in Basic Laws. In the first stage, constitutional enshrinement will include:
 - Protection of the right to equality and prohibition of discrimination
 - Protection of human dignity, freedom, and privacy
 - Protection of property rights
 - Protection of freedom of expression, protest, assembly, and association
 - Protection of freedom of religion and freedom from religion
 - Protection of legal rights
8. The Office of the Attorney General is independent and professional, and its status will be guaranteed as a system whose purpose is to serve the good of the general public according to the law.
9. The civil service is a state system whose purpose is to serve the good of the general public.
10. All parts of society will contribute to the security of the State of Israel, its economy, welfare, and prosperity.