



Adalah

Index of Currently Pending Discriminatory Bills in the 19th Israeli Knesset

(as of 24 June 2013)

I. Land and Planning Rights

1. **The Bill for the Regulation of the Settlement of the Bedouin in the Negev (2012) (“Praver-Begin Plan Bill”)**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/Laws/Data/BillGovernment/761/761.pdf>

This bill was issued on 3 January 2012 following the approval of the report issued by the government-appointed Praver Committee. If passed, the bill will lead to the forced displacement of tens of thousands of Arab Bedouin citizens of Israel from their homes and land in the unrecognized villages in the Naqab (Negev). In some cases, Arab Bedouin have been living in these villages since before the State of Israel existed; in other cases the villages were established following the expulsion and relocation of the Arab Bedouin by the military government whose rule was imposed on them after Israel’s establishment. The Bedouin citizen affected by this latest bill will be concentrated in government-planned townships, which are unsuited to their traditional way of life, and offered meagre compensation. After the bill was published, the government initiated a public hearing period, supervised by Minister Benny Begin. **The bill was approved by the Ministerial Committee on 6 May 2013 and passed a first reading in the Knesset on 24 June 2013.**

[English summary of the law](#) | [Adalah position Paper on the Bill, May 2013](#)

II. Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

- *Expansion of benefits for the performance of military service*

2. **275 Contributors to the State Bill - 2013, 13/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/275.rtf>

The bill seeks to institute preferential treatment to citizens who contribute to the state (i.e. serving in the military or the civil service), including preference in hiring, in job salaries and in receiving services such as student housing, higher education and allocation of land for housing. The bill states that such preferential treatment shall not be considered discrimination as prohibited by Israeli law. The bill also includes consequential amendments to other laws designed to fulfill the purpose of this bill, including preference in hiring for civil service jobs that are currently provided to different populations such as minorities. **The Ministerial Committee for Legislation approved this bill on 16/06/2013.**

Adalah sent a letter to the Ministerial Committee calling on them to reject the bill:

<http://adalah.org/eng/Articles/2174/Bill-to-legalize-discrimination-based-on-military>

3. **381 Exemption of Discharged Soldiers from National Insurance Fees - Bill to amend National Insurance Law - 2013, 13/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/381.rtf>

The amendment seeks to exempt discharged soldiers from paying national insurance for four years after their release from military or national service.

4. **458 Rewarding the Perseverance of Compulsory Military Service Soldiers and Civil Service Volunteers in order to Ensure their Ability to Acquire a Higher Education Bill - 2013, 13/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/458.rtf>

This bill aims to give more benefits to citizens who serve in the military and civil service. Another main goal is to encourage people to serve in combat units in the military (soldiers in these units will receive even more benefits).

5. **493 Reduction of the Tax Rate that Applies to the Special Remuneration - Bill to amend the Reserve Service Law - 2013, 13/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/493.rtf>

The bill seeks to reduce the income tax rate of the special compensation that military reservists receive for significant periods of service from 25% to 10%.

6. **868 Encouragement of the Study of Engineering and Technology - Bill to amend the Absorption of Discharged Soldiers Law - 2013, 18/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/868.rtf>

This amendment aims to encourage and provide tools for discharged soldiers to study Engineering and Technology, in order to expand and integrate into Israel's main fields of economic growth. **The bill passed a preliminary reading on 12/06/2013.**

7. **964 Exemption of Lone Soldiers from Payment of Television Fee - Bill to amend the Broadcasting Authority Law - 2013, 18/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/964.rtf>

This bill aims to exempt lone soldiers from paying television fees. Although originally a temporary order, this bill seeks to make the order into a law so as to grant more benefits to lone soldiers.

- ***Education and Military Service***

8. **366 "The Goals of Education" – Bill to amend the State Education Law - 2013, 13/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/366.rtf>

This amendment seeks to include in Article 2 of the State Education Law, which defines the goals of education, the obligation to serve the state through military or civil service as another main goal of Israel's education system.

III. Civil and Political Rights

- ***Citizenship***

9. **963 Immigration to Israel Bill -2013, 18/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/963.rtf>

The purpose of the bill is to establish a clearer, institutionalized immigration policy for the State of Israel which ensures its existence as a "Jewish and democratic state".

- ***Political Participation***

10. **71 Denial of the Right to Wages Earned on Election Day to an Individual who does not Vote – Bill to amend the Knesset Elections Law -2013, 13/3/2013.**

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/71.rtf>

This amendment aims to raise the voting rate for the Knesset by denying individuals the right to receive wages on Election Day, if they do not vote. This bill will mainly affect some Arab citizens, who for historical and political reasons, do not vote for the Knesset.

*A series of bills seek to **raise the threshold percentage of votes** required in order to obtain seats in the Israeli parliament. These bills will primarily affect the Arab political parties. They include:*

11. 844 Determination of the Qualifying Election Threshold – Bill to amend Basic Law: The Knesset -2013, 13/3/2013. <http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/844.rtf>

The bill seeks to raise the qualifying threshold from 2% to 2.5% for the 20th Knesset, and from 2.5% to 3% for the 21st Knesset.

12. 956 Qualifying Election Threshold – Bill to amend Basic Law: the Knesset -2013 18/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/956.rtf>

The bill seeks to raise the qualifying threshold from 2% to 5%.

13. 1131 Qualifying Election Threshold - Bill to amend of Basic Law: the Knesset -2013, 29/4/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/1131.rtf>

The bill seeks, among other things, to raise the qualifying threshold from 2% to 3% as part of a gradual increase. Its continuity will be studied and further decided upon in the future.

14. 1160 Increased Governance and Raising the Qualifying Election Threshold – Bill to Amend Basic Law: The Government - 2013, 29/4/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/1160.rtf>

The bill seeks, among other things, to raise the qualifying threshold from 2% to 4%. **The bill passed a preliminary reading on 8/5/2013.**

15. 1402 Changing the System of Government – Bill to amend Basic Law: The Government – 2013, 17/6/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/1402.rtf>

The bill seeks, among other things, to raise the qualifying threshold from 2% to 4%.

- **Compulsory Military Service**

16. 391 Mandatory Recruitment - Bill to amend the Security Service Law -2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/391.rtf>

According to the bill, each resident who holds Israeli citizenship and who reaches the age of recruitment will receive an order for compulsory service. The enumerator will decide if the person will enlist in the IDF or in the civil service.

17. 535 Civil Service Bill - 2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/535.rtf>

The bill aims to institute a compulsory civil service system for 18-year-old individuals who did not or are not obligated to serve in the military.

- *Freedom of Association and Freedom of Speech*

18. 474 Exceptions to the Registration of an Association – Bill to Amend Associations [Amutot] Law - 2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/474.rtf>

The bill aims to deny registration to associations that reject the existence of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. The law currently denies the registration of associations if they reject only the democratic component of the state.

19. 841 Taxation of Income of Public Institutions that Receive a Donation from a Foreign State Entity – Bill to Amend Income Tax Ordinance -2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/841.rtf>

This bill aims to deny human rights organizations the exemption from payment of income tax in Israel, and to declare a 45% tax on the donations and contributions they receive from foreign governments or entities. It proposes to exclude organizations that receive budgets from the state, in order to keep the tax exemption for organizations working in areas such as welfare and education.

20. 1133 Defamation of IDF Soldiers – The "Jenin, Jenin Bill" - Bill to amend the Defamation Prohibition Law -2013, 29/4/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/1133.rtf>

The bill adds a new provision to the existing law that allows Israeli soldiers to file class action lawsuits for defamation against their conduct during military operations. According to the existing law, if the defamatory remarks were made against a group of people rather than one person, they cannot file a slander lawsuit as a group without the recommendation

of the Attorney General (AG). The amendment in the current bill seeks to remove the discretion of the AG. **The bill received approval from the Ministerial Committee for Legislation, and it passed a preliminary reading on 22/05/2013.**

Adalah sent a letter calling on members of Knesset to reject the bill to the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, which should prepare the bill for first reading:
<http://www.adalah.org/eng/Articles/2175/Jenin-Jenin-bill-must-be-struck-immediately,-tells>

IV. Criminal Justice

21. 683 Bill to amend on Participation in an Act of War or Terrorism against the State Law - 2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/683.rtf>

According to the bill, an Israeli citizen who participates in combat operations or acts of terrorism alongside a hostile organization (including Hezbollah, Hamas and al-Qaeda), or a military organization on behalf of an enemy state (including Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Libya), against the security forces of Israel, will be held for a criminal trial, even if the person is a Member of the Knesset, and could have his/her citizenship revoked by the state.

V. Prisoners' and Detainees' Rights

22. 484 Denial of Privileges from a Prisoner Belonging to a Terrorist Organization that is Holding an Israeli Captive - Bill to amend the Prison Ordinance Law - 2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/484.rtf>

According to the bill, as long as a terrorist organization holds an Israeli citizen in captivity, a security prisoner from the same organization will be denied special privileges listed in the bill such as visits, recording videos or photographs of themselves to send to their families, receiving and sending letters and other rights.

23. Bill to Fight Terrorism (2011)

http://www.nevo.co.il/law_word/law15/memshala-611.pdf

This expansive bill, spanning over 105 pages of provisions and explanatory notes, threatens to enact into law various existing procedures, and to authorize new ones, which are applied

discriminatorily against Palestinians from the OPT and Palestinian citizens of Israel, allegedly in the name of fighting terrorism. The bill seeks to entrench many emergency regulations currently in effect in Israeli law, some of which date back to the British Mandatory period, in a move that will significantly undermine the rights of “security detainees”. The bill includes additional draconian measures for investigating detainees accused of security offenses; provides for the extensive use of secret evidence in court; limits detainees’ access to judicial review; weakens the evidentiary requirements on the state in these cases; establishes new criminal offenses, including for any public expression of support or sympathy with a terrorist group; and sharply increases the maximum sentences for people convicted of such offenses. Moreover, the bill uses a troublingly vague definition of terrorism and terrorist organizations. The bill was first introduced in the 18th Knesset, and was raised again in the 19th Knesset by Tzipi Livni, the Justice Minister. **The Ministerial Committee on Legislation approved this bill on 09/06/2013.**

VI. The Occupied Territories

24. 478 Bill on Knesset Approval of Political Negotiations Relating to Jerusalem and the Entrance of Refugees into Israel -2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/478.rtf>

This bill prohibits the commencement of negotiations on “extreme concessions” regarding the issues of Jerusalem and the return of Palestinian refugees into Israeli territory, which would harm the state’s Jewish identity and create a rift in Israeli society, unless such negotiations are approved by the majority of the Israeli Knesset.

25. 481 Bill on the Application of Israeli Law to all of the Jewish Settlements in the Regions of Judea and Samaria -2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/481.rtf>

The bill proposes to apply Israeli law to all the Jewish communities/settlements in the West Bank and all roads leading to these settlements.

26. 495 Bill on the Application of Israeli Law to Jewish Settlements in the Jordan Valley-2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/495.rtf>

The bill proposes to apply Israeli law to all the Jewish communities/settlements in the Jordan Valley and all roads leading to these settlements.

27. 498 Bill against the Removal of Outposts -2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/498.rtf>

The purpose of the bill is to prevent the eviction of all Jewish settlements in the West Bank, including outposts and residential buildings that were established with the approval of the state or with the state's assistance in building infrastructure and providing incentives for residents to move into the settlements.

28. 818 Liability of the State - Bill to amend the Civil Wrongs Law, Amendment No. 7 (Amendment of the Beginning of Article 5b) -2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/818.rtf>

The proposed amendment adopts the minority ruling in the case of *Derani v. State of Israel*. According to the bill, a person from a defined "enemy state" does not have the right to sue for damages retroactively in Israeli courts. In contrast, people from "conflict zones", meaning the West Bank and Gaza Strip, can file lawsuits for damages that occurred only before 2000 (the beginning of the Second Intifada). **The amendment passed a preliminary reading on 1/5/2013.**

29. 834 Permanent Political Agreement in Judea and Samaria - Bill to amend the Government and Judiciary Arrangements Law (Cancellation of the Application of the Jurisdiction and Administration Law), -2013, 13/3/2013.

<http://www.knesset.gov.il/privatelaw/data/19/834.rtf>

The bill aims to impose a mandatory referendum to approve a permanent political agreement on the Palestinian Territories. The provisions of the law and its implementing body will regulate the general administration of the referendum, including the wording of the question, the right to participate in the referendum and its date, and more.