

# **Basic Law: Israel as the Nation State of the Jewish People (13 March 2018)**

## **Unofficial translation – 10 June 2018**

### **1 — Basic principles**

- A. The Land of Israel is the historic national home of the Jewish people, in which the State of Israel was established.
- B. The State of Israel is the national state of the Jewish people, in which it exercises its natural, cultural, and historic right to self-determination.
- C. The right to exercise national self-determination in the State of Israel is unique to the Jewish people.

### **2 — The symbols of the state**

- A. The name of the state is "Israel."
- B. The state flag is white with two blue stripes near the edges and a blue Star of David in the center.
- C. The state emblem is a seven-branched menorah with olive leaves on both sides and the word "Israel" beneath it.
- D. The state anthem is "Hatikva."
- E. Details regarding state symbols shall be determined by law.

### **3 — The capital of the state**

A greater, united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.

### **4 — Language**

- A. The state's language is Hebrew.
- B. The Arabic language has a special status, and its speakers have the right to language-accessible state services; relevant details will be determined by the law.
- C. Nothing in this provision is intended to harm the practical status of the Arabic language prior to the enactment of this Basic Law.

### **5 — Ingathering of the exiles**

The state will be open to Jewish immigration and the ingathering of the exiles.

### **6 — Connection with the Jewish people**

- A. The state shall foster the well-being of the Jewish people in trouble or in captivity due to the fact of their Jewishness.
- B. The state shall act to strengthen the affinity between the state and the Jewish people wherever they may be.
- C. The state shall act to preserve the cultural, historic, and religious heritage of the Jewish people in the Diaspora.

### **7 — Preserving heritage**

- A. Every resident of Israel, regardless of their religion or nationality, has the right to act to preserve their culture, heritage, language, and identity.

- B. The state may allow a community, including followers of a single religion or members of a single nationality, to establish separate communal settlement.

#### **8 — Official calendar**

The Hebrew calendar is an official calendar of the state, and the foreign calendar shall be used concurrently as an official calendar; use of the Hebrew calendar and the foreign calendar shall be determined by law.

#### **9 — Independence Day and memorial days**

- A. Independence Day is the national holiday of the state.
- B. Memorial Day for the Fallen in Israel's Wars and Holocaust and Heroism Remembrance Day are official memorial days of the State.

#### **10 — Days of rest and Sabbaths**

The established days of rest in the State of Israel are the Sabbath and the festivals of Israel; non-Jews have the right to rest on their Sabbaths and their festivals; details shall be determined by law.

#### **11 — Foundations of the law**

Should the court encounter a legal question that demands a ruling and be unable to find an answer through legislation, legal precedent, or deduction, it shall rule in light of the principles of freedom, justice, integrity, and peace of the heritage of Israel.

#### **12 — Immutability**

This Basic Law shall not be amended, unless by another Basic Law passed by a majority of Knesset members.