

**20th Knesset**

**Submitted by:**

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## **Proposed Basic Law: A State for all its citizens**

### ***Objective***

1. The purpose of this basic law is to enshrine in a basic law the principle of equal citizenship for every citizen, while recognizing the existence and rights of the two national groups, the Jewish one and the Arab one, living within the borders of the State, as recognized by international law.

### ***Basic Principles***

2. The State is a state for all its citizens, and its government is a democratic government.

### ***Government***

3. (a) The government of the State is based on the values of human dignity, liberty and equality between all humans.

(b) The government of the State is based on the separation of religion and state, while guaranteeing freedom of worship to all religions.

(c) The State respects the individual and collective identity of its citizens on an egalitarian basis, without discrimination on grounds of nationality, race, religion, gender, language, color, political outlook, ethnic origin or social status.

(d) Affirmative action for individuals who belong to a group which has suffered historical discrimination will not be considered discriminatory.

### ***State symbols And the anthem***

4. The symbols of the State and the anthem shall be determined by law, in accordance with the principles of this basic law.

### ***Citizenship***

5. Citizenship in the state is based on the principle of equality and the prohibition of discrimination, and conditions for its acquisition shall be determined in accordance with the principles of this basic law, and as such it shall be determined that citizenship be granted to anyone who meets one of the following conditions:

(1) one of their parents is a citizen of the State;

(2) a spouse of a citizen of the State, in accordance with his/her request;

(3) a person born in the State;

(4) A person whose arrival or stay in the State is in accordance to a right that is based on international law and United Nations resolutions;

### ***Official languages***

6. The Arabic language and the Hebrew language are the official languages of the State.

### ***Cultural rights***

7. (a) The State guarantees cultural autonomy to any national minority group, including the maintenance, establishment and management of representative, educational, cultural and religious institutions independently and in accordance with the principles of this basic law.
- (b) The State allows every citizen to maintain, use and nurture their culture, heritage, language and identity, in accordance with this basic law.
- (c) The State allows every citizen to maintain cultural relations with their people or members of the nation to which they belong, including outside the borders of the State.
- (d) The State allows a national minority living within its legally recognized international borders, to maintain cultural relations with the people or nation to which it belongs, including outside the borders of the State.

### ***Social rights***

8. (a) The State allows every citizen to maintain familial and social ties with their people or members of the nation to which they belong, including outside the borders of the State.
- (b) The State ensures the distribution of resources according to the principles of distributive justice and affirmative action.
- (c) The State guarantees a dignified livelihood for every person living in its territory.

### ***Rigidity***

9. (a) This basic law may only be changed by a basic law passed by a majority of members of Knesset.
- (b) The validity of any law which violates the rights or principles of this basic law shall expire at the lapse of three years from the date of commencement of this Law.

### ***Explanatory notes***

Currently there exists substantial and institutional discrimination, which is manifested, inter alia, in the definition of the State, in the allocation of budgets, property and land rights, education, infrastructure, employment, the treatment of language and identity and citizenship laws which grant superiority to one national group. The proposed Basic Law is based on equal citizenship and equal civil rights, and prohibits the existence of different types and levels of citizenship on any basis.

The purpose of the proposed Basic Law is to anchor the principles of equality and democracy and equal citizenship for all citizens of the State without any discrimination on the basis of group affiliation. The law ensures that the State is not the property of a certain group of citizens, but a state for all citizens with full equality.

The proposed Basic Law is based on the values of democratic states which guarantee equality and personal liberty to all citizens and residents, and the recognition of the collective rights of national and cultural groups within the State. It is also intended to implement the international conventions on human rights, including political, social, economic, cultural, and collective rights.

The premise of this bill is that within the "Green Line" two nationalities reside which are entitled to equal treatment both at the level of individual rights and at the collective level, without violating the equality of the other citizens and residents.

The proposed Basic Law guarantees separation between religion and state, as opposed to the current situation. This separation constitutes a democratic basis whose purpose is to protect the right of all citizens to realize their self-determination and their personal and collective liberties. It is intended to prevent religious coercion and to ensure that the State is neutral in its attitude to religious groups, and that it is not affiliated with one group at the expense of another one or other ones.

The proposed Basic Law protects the equal rights of all citizens based on the principles of human dignity, liberty, equality and justice, subject to international law.