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Israël - LOI DE L'ETAT-NATION

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Origine

180 intellectuels israéliens, écrivains, universitaires, artistes parmi lesquels **Amos Oz, David Grossman, A. B. Yehoshua, Eshkol Nevo, Orly Castel-Bloom, Etgar Keret, Zeruya Shalev, Yael Dayan** ... ont appelé les députés à effacer ce péché :

...Nous – écrivains, scénaristes, dramaturges, universitaires et membres de la communauté des arts et des lettres d'Israël – voudrions vous exprimer nos plus vives inquiétudes et notre consternation, à la lumière des récentes lois adoptées par la Knesset israélienne sous votre direction...

...Au cours des années de votre gouvernement, vous n'avez cessé de saper les fondements de notre État. Vous avez nui aux relations entre Israël et les Juifs américains et vous avez plongé des populations entières dans la pauvreté...

...Vous avez porté un dur coup à la société israélienne, mais le coup le plus grave est porté aux valeurs d'égalité et de responsabilité mutuelle sur lesquelles la société israélienne est basée et d'où elle tire sa force...

...Nous exigeons l'abolition immédiate de la loi de l'État-nation, qui crée un fossé entre la société israélienne et le judaïsme américain, discrimine les Arabes, les Druzes et les Bédouins, et sape la coexistence de la majorité juive en Israël avec ses minorités. Nous exigeons votre réponse immédiate à la demande d'égalité pour les membres de la communauté LGBT. Il est impensable que l'État d'Israël s'interpose entre une personne et son désir naturel de devenir parent et de fonder une famille...

To : Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu, Prime Minister of Israel Members of the Knesset
July 27, 2018.

Dear Mr. Prime Minister and members of the Knesset :, Public Statement

We – writers, screenwriters, playwrights, academic scholars and members of Israel's arts and letters community – would like to express to you our utmost shock and dismay, in light of the recent laws passed by the Israeli Knesset under your leadership, first and foremost the Nation-State Law and the Surrogacy Law.

According to a law recently passed by the Knesset and entitled "Israel : The Nation State of the Jewish People", Israel is now defined as a nation-state for Jews only. This is a Basic Law, with quasi-constitutional status, that explicitly allows racial and religious discrimination, rescinds the status of Arabic as an official language alongside Hebrew, does not mention democracy as the basis of the regime, and does not mention equality as a core value. As such, this Basic Law is undemocratic and runs counter to the definition of the State of Israel as a democratic state ; moreover, it contradicts the Declaration of Independence, based on which Israel was founded. These are two things no Knesset has a right to do.

The Knesset also amended the Surrogacy Law, when it extended the list of people who are eligible to receive the services of a surrogate child-bearer, to include single women who have a medical condition preventing them from having a child, but excluded single men and gay couples.

Those two laws exclude Christian and Muslim Arabs (including Bedouin), Druze and Circassians, and violate the LGBTQ community's right for parenthood. They are part of a long list of actions by the various governments of the

State of Israel that you have headed, from 1996 to 1999 and from 2009 to this day, and have unjustly penalized the most excluded and disadvantaged sectors in both Jewish and Israeli society, including Reform and Conservative Judaism, the Arab (including Bedouin), Druze and Circassian minorities, the sick and elderly, Holocaust survivors and differently-abled people, single women, Ethiopian Jews and many more.

During your years in office, you and those governments have persistently eroded the foundations of our Jewish-democratic country. You have damaged the relations between Israel and United States Jewry ; you have sentenced huge populations to continued poverty and hardship ; and you have knowingly and purposely damaged Israel's education system, public diplomacy, culture and economy, defense and welfare.

By doing so, you have done severe harm to Israeli society. But the most severe damage has affected the values of equality and mutual responsibility, on which Israel's society is based and from which it draws its strength.

We demand that you immediately repeal the Nation-State Law, which has created a rift between Israeli society and United States Jewry ; discriminates against Arabs (including Bedouin), Druze and Circassians ; and damages the coexistence of Israel's Jewish majority with its minorities. Moreover, we demand your immediate response to the call for equality on behalf of the members of the LGBTQ community. It is unthinkable for the State of Israel to stand between a person and that person's natural desire to become a parent and to establish a family.

Felonies and misdemeanors properly defined as such by law fall under the jurisdiction of a court. On the other hand, sins that are infamously written into the law itself by the elected lawmakers – sins that undermine the core of the Jewish people's existence and its homeland – must be judged by intellectuals and by the court of history.

Please stop your government and coalition members from scourging minorities that create the colorful mosaic that is Israeli society and help to guarantee its existence. Do it now !