



JSpaceCanada condemns discriminatory provisions of Jewish State Bill

For immediate release

July 13, 2018 — JSpaceCanada joins Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and Natan Sharansky, as well as many other Israelis and Diaspora groups worldwide, in condemning provisions of the Jewish State Bill that is nearing final approval in the Knesset. Two provisions are particularly abhorrent to Zionism, to traditional Israeli openness and democracy, and to the principles of Israel's Declaration of Independence. One provision allows religious communities to exclude other Israelis for any reason, and another downgrades Arabic as an official language.

“As both Sharansky and President Rivlin noted, these provisions drive a wedge between Israel and the Diaspora where discrimination against minorities is all too familiar,” said Karen Mock, Chair of JSpaceCanada. President Rivlin also said the legislation “could harm the Jewish people worldwide and in Israel, and could even be used as a weapon by our enemies.”

It has been reported that the Knesset House Committee and the Law, Constitution and Justice Committee will meet next week to review the bill before submitting it to the Knesset for a final vote. “We urge the committees to heed objections from Israelis and the Diaspora, as well as to remember the Jewish values the bill claims to promote. We urge them to remove both egregious provisions entirely,” added Mock.

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JSpaceCanada provides Canadians with a safe space to have crucial conversations about Israel's future. We support a two-state solution to the conflict, with safety and security for Israel and her neighbours. We provide an alternative to both the vehemently anti-Israel left and the rigidly pro-Israel right, with room for everyone to engage in civil and informed discussion. We offer a balanced perspective on Israel, with commitment to human rights and social justice for Jews, Palestinians, and all other citizens and residents of Israel.