As in our previous study (2017), we found that the complex relationship between Israel’s Jewish and Arab citizens plays out at three levels, which do not necessarily overlap: The state (government), the society and the individual (interpersonal relations).

In our 2019 survey, we did not find dramatic changes in any of the three levels, compared with the 2017 findings. One possible insight we can glean from this data is that – contrary to the predictions of many – the Nation-State Law, passed in 2018, was not a critically negative turning point in the relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel.

65% of Arabs, compared with 92% of Jews, say that they are proud to be Israelis.

However, only 32% of Jewish citizens think that Israeli Arabs feel a sense of belonging to the Israeli society.

57% of Arab citizens report feeling that they are part of Israeli society, compared with 84% of Jewish citizens.

The Jewish public underestimates the extent of the Arab community’s sense of belonging to Israeli society.

* All references to ‘Arabs’ refer to Arab citizens of Israel, and all references to ‘Jews’ - to Jewish citizens.
The Jewish public is divided on the question of whether it was justified for the law to stipulate that only Jews have the right “to exercise national self-determination in the State of Israel,” despite the inherent difficulties this creates for Arabs who wish to see themselves as fully-fledged members of the Israeli collective.

Thought that this wording was necessary

46% of Jews

Thought that it should not have been included

41% of Jews

The Nation-State Law

Primary Self-Identification

These findings have not changed significantly since 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jews</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religiosity (Ultra-Orthodox, Religious / Traditional / Secular)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnic Background (Mizrahi / Ashkenazi)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arabs</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion (Muslim / Christian / Druze)</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestinian</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israeli</td>
<td>9.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Jewish-Arab Relations

31% of Arabs think that relations are "good," compared with only 20% of Jews who feel this way.

- 31% of Arabs think the relationship is good / very good
- 20% of Arabs think the relationship is "fair"
- 20% of Arabs think the relationship is bad / very bad
- 21% of Arabs do not know

- 49% of Jews think the relationship is good / very good
- 21% of Jews think the relationship is "fair"
- 20% of Jews think the relationship is bad / very bad
- 57% of Jews do not know

31% of Arabs think that relations are "good," compared with only 20% of Jews who feel this way.

Think that the state has treated Arabs unfairly over the years.

- 44% of Jews think the state has treated Arabs unfairly over the years.
- 78% of Arabs think the state has treated Arabs unfairly over the years.

A large majority of Arabs reject the suggestion that it is best for Jews and Arabs to live separately in Israel. By contrast, less than half of Jews oppose this idea.

- 47% of Jews think that the state has treated Arabs unfairly over the years.
- 81% of Arabs think that the state has treated Arabs unfairly over the years.

Most Jews avoid entering Arab communities in Israel, while only few Arabs avoid entering Jewish cities and towns.

- 38% of Jews think that the state has treated Arabs unfairly over the years.
- 48% of Arabs think that the state has treated Arabs unfairly over the years.

Most Jews think that Arab citizens should either serve in the military or volunteer for civil national service. Only about one third of Arabs agree with this idea.

- 72% of Jews think that the greatest source of tension in Israeli society is that between Jews and Arabs.
- 58% of Arabs think that the greatest source of tension in Israeli society is that between Jews and Arabs.

A majority of Jews support separate education systems for Jews and Arabs (as currently exists), compared with only a minority of Arabs.

- 35% of Arabs think that the greatest source of tension in Israeli society is that between Jews and Arabs.
- 59% of Arabs think that the greatest source of tension in Israeli society is that between Jews and Arabs.
Political Arena

Most Jewish citizens believe that Israel is a "democracy for all of its citizens"; while only a minority of Arab citizens believe that democracy extends to their community.

71% of Jews

44% of Arabs

A large majority of Arab citizens do not believe that Israel should be defined as the nation-state of the Jewish people. This is a 10% increase relative to an identical question in the 2017 survey.

77% of Arabs

24% of Jews

Only one quarter of Jews think that more Arabs should be appointed to senior governmental positions.

Crime in the Israeli Arab Sector

The most common explanation among Jewish Israelis (39%) for the high level of crime in the Arab sector is that local Arab leadership does not cooperate enough with the police to prevent crime in their communities.

39% of Jews

The state does not invest enough resources to prevent crime in Arab society

Arab leadership does not cooperate with the police to prevent crime in Arab society

38% of Arabs

25%

17%

The most common explanation among Arab Israelis for the high level of crime in the Arab sector is that the state and/or the police have not invested enough resources in prevention.
Employment and Shared Workplaces

96% of Arab Israelis would welcome Jewish co-workers at work, and 81% of Jews feel the same way about their Arab counterparts.

98% of Arabs

92.5% of Jews

Employees in a shared workplace report positive relationships between Arabs and Jews at work.

Cautious Optimism

64% of Jews would be happy to have Arabs as friends, and 58% would be happy to have them as neighbors. By contrast, 85% of Arabs would welcome Jewish friends and 89% would welcome Jewish neighbors.

83% of Arabs

57% of Jews

Believe that most Arab citizens of Israel want to integrate into, and be full members of Israeli society.

76% of Arabs of both Jewish and Arab Israelis state that Israel is a good place to live.

* A large majority of Arabs believe that Jews are always more likely to be hired or to be accepted to an educational institution than their Arab counterparts, even if the Arab candidates are more qualified.
The Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) is an independent center of research and action dedicated to strengthening the foundations of Israeli democracy. IDI works to bolster the values and institutions of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state. A non-partisan think-and-do tank, the institute harnesses rigorous applied research to influence policy and public opinion. The institute partners with government, policy and decision makers, civil service and society, to improve the functioning of the government and its institutions, confront security threats while preserving civil liberties, and foster solidarity within Israeli society.

A Conditional Partnership is a periodic study that examines the relationship between Jews and Arabs in Israel. It examines this relationship on three levels - state, society, and interpersonal. Among the questions we asked were ones about individual’s national identity, the state’s treatment of the Arab minority, willingness to share resources and include the other in decision-making processes, and stereotypes each group has about the other.

The Arab-Jewish Relations Program seeks to promote multi-faceted civic partnership between Jews and Arabs based primarily upon the principle of equality. The purpose of its studies is to identify obstacles to equal partnership of this kind and identify factors that will nurture and promote it.

The Guttman Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research was established in its current form in 1998, when the Guttman Institute for Practical Social Research moved to the Israel Democracy Institute. The original institute was founded in 1949 by Professor Eliyahu (Louis) Guttman as a pioneering center for the research of public opinion and the promotion of a methodological approach to social studies. The goal of the Center is to harness data from its databases and public-opinion polls to enrich public discourse on issues of public policy.

This book is the product of collaboration between IDI’s Arab-Jewish Relations Program and the Guttman Center for Policy Research.

To order the full book: orders@idi.org.il
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