



THE ISRAEL
DEMOCRACY
INSTITUTE

THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE PROGRAM ON RELIGION AND STATE

The Joan and Irwin Jacobs Center for Shared Society



September 21, 2022

The Israeli Democracy Institute, 4 Pinsker St. Jerusalem

9:30 Registration

10:00 Opening remarks

Justice Neal Hendel, Deputy President of the Supreme Court (ret.)
Adv. Shlomit Ravitsky Tur-Paz, Director, Joan and Irwin Jacobs Center for Shared Society, Israel Democracy Institute

Religion and State – A One-on-One Conversation

Yohanan Plesner, President, Israel Democracy Institute, in conversation with
MK Matan Kahana, former Minister of Religious Services, National Unity Party

10:30 Session 1

“You shall count” – The Shabbat in Numbers

Moderator: **Sara Beck**, Journalist and Director of the “Agada – Jewish Legends” project

A spotlight on data from the Statistical Report on Religion and State

Ariel Finkelstein, Researcher, Program on Religion and State and Report co-author, Israel Democracy Institute

Adv. Shlomit Ravitsky Tur-Paz in conversation with
MK Merav Michaeli, Minister of Transport and Road Safety, Labor Party Chair

Discussion

Prof. Guy Ben Porat, Israel Democracy Institute; Department of Politics and Government, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

Shmuel Chaim Pappenheim, former editor of “Ha’Edah” newspaper and secretary of the Eda Charedit, Court of Justice; PhD. student in the Department of Political Science, Haifa University

Dr. Ruth Kabbesa-Abramzon, director of Shearim and founder of “The National Institute for Shabbat, Society and Economy”, and the Shabbat Unplugged project

11:55 Break

12:15 Session 2

20 Years Later - A Retrospective Look at the Gavison-Medan Covenant

Moderator: **Prof. Danny Statman**, Israel Democracy Institute, Haifa University

Gavison-Medan Covenant – A Historical Perspective

Rabbi Yaakov Medan, Head of Har Etzion Yeshiva and one of the covenant’s two authors in conversation with **Prof. Danny Statman**

The Gavison-Medan Covenant – The Current Picture

Short ‘TED’ lectures (Speakers listed in alphabetical order of surnames)

Chen Arieli, Deputy Mayor, Tel Aviv-Jaffa; Social Services portfolio

MK Michael Biton, Chair, Knesset Economic Committee, National Unity Party

MK Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Chair, Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee, Labor

Dr. Gilad Malach, Director, Ultra-Orthodox in Israel Program, Israel Democracy Institute and Project Manager of the Gavison-Medan Covenant

Rivka Ravitz, a leader of the young ultra-Orthodox generation, former Chief of Staff to the President of Israel

Alex Rif, CEO, One Million Lobby (Russian-speaking Israelis)

Rabbi David Stav, Rabbi of the city of Shoham and Chair of the Tzohar Rabbinical Organization

From National to Local Regulation

Moderator: **Ariel Finkelstein**, Researcher and head of local government unit, program for Religion and State, Israel Democracy Institute

Amir Kochavi, Mayor of Hod Hasharon

Summing up

Yohanan Plesner, President, Israel Democracy Institute

14:15 Lunch

14:45 Intermission

“Who’s in and Who’s Out” – An Artist’s Perspective on Religion and State

Nurit Jacobs Yinon, Artist and curator, film director and producer, “Aluma Films”

15:10 Session 3

Religion and State in the 25th Knesset

Moderator: **Yair Sherki**, Journalist, News12

Yair Cherki, Journalist, News12 in conversation with **Rabbi Yitzhak Goldknopf**, Chair of United Torah Judaism Party

Panel of MKs

MK Yulia Malinovsky, Chair, Knesset Committees on Special National Infrastructure Projects and Jewish Religious Services, Yisrael Beitenu Party

MK Simcha Rothman, Religious Zionist Party

MK Mossi Raz, Meretz

16:30 Summing up the Conference