**Press Release**

**February 2025 Israeli Voice Index**

**Majority of Israelis Think PM Netanyahu Should Accept Responsibility for Oct 7 and Resign – Now or After the War**

*In the total sample, 72.5% of Israelis* are in favor of the prime minister resigning either now or after the war, and 87% think that he should accept responsibility for October 7, whether or not he resigns.

The February 2025 Israeli Voice Index, conducted by the Viterbi Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research, looked at various current issues this month. Among them, it found that the largest share of respondents (48%) think that the prime minister should accept responsibility and resign **immediately**. Another 24.5% say that he should accept responsibility but resign only **after the war**; 14.5% think that he should accept responsibility but not resign; and 10%, that he should neither accept responsibility nor resign. A majority thinks the prime minister should resign (either immediately or after the war) across the full political spectrum: Left – 96.5%, Center - 89.5%, Right: 56.5%.

**What should the prime minister do? (total sample; %)**

**Additional Survey Highlights:**

**Many Israelis are optimistic about new IDF Chief of Staff**

Asked about the incoming (at the time of the survey) IDF Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir, 61% of Israelis (total sample) think he will improve the IDF's operational capabilities, and 50% think he will mend relations between political and military echelon. Given that Zamir is not well-known to the public, there was a particularly large share of respondents who selected the “don’t know” response (19% for restoring military capabilities, and 22% for improving relations between the military and political leaderships).

**Regardless of its feasibility, Israelis think Trump's Gaza plan raised new ideas to the end the war**

We asked, “Some people argue that, regardless of its feasibility, President Trump’s plan for voluntary emigration by the population of Gaza has started a more relevant discussion of possible solutions for ending the war. Do you agree or disagree with this claim?” In the total sample, a majority of respondents (64%) agree with the argument that the Trump plan has “reinvigorated” debate about solutions. We found very large differences on this question between Jews and Arabs: Around three-quarters of Jews (73%) agree with the statement, while just 23% of Arabs concur.

**Most Israelis against Ben Gvir returning to minister role—even on the Right**

We asked, if the Otzma Yehudit party rejoins the government, whether it would be appropriate for Itamar Ben-Gvir to return to office as minister of national security. A clear majority of 70% of the total sample think that this would be inappropriate. The share of those who hold this view in the Arab sample is close to 80%, higher than the equivalent share of Jews (68%). Breaking down the Jewish sample by political orientation, we found that an overwhelming majority of those on the Left (97%) and in the Center (89%) are opposed to Ben-Gvir returning to his former post. On the Right, a plurality (50.5%) are opposed as well.

**Most Israelis remain committed to continuing to the second stage of ceasefire**

We repeated a question from last month: “Should Israel continue with the second stage of the deal with Hamas, to include a complete cessation of hostilities, withdrawal from Gaza, and release of Palestinian prisoners in exchange for the release of all the hostages?” Similar to last month, 73% of the total sample support continuing with the second stage of the agreement and securing the release of all the hostages, despite the heavy price. And as in January, we found an overwhelming majority who support this course of action among Arab Israelis (90%), and a clear majority of support in the Jewish Israelis (69.5%).

**Israelis credit US President Trump the most with securing hostage release; Netanyahu the least**

Asked to what extent various actors should be credited with the hostage release deal, Prime Minister Netanyahu received the lowest share of public recognition, at 41.5%—indeed, he was the only actor who received less than 50%, and who the majority of respondents said had not contributed to the deal (54.5%). The highest level of recognition (by far) was given to President Trump (85.5%). While the trend among Jewish Israelis is similar to that of the total sample, among Arab Israelis, the highest rate of recognition went to the demonstrations and hostage family pressure (72%), and they credited PM Netanyahu at 29% and President Trump at 47%

**To what extent have each of the following contributed or not contributed to the implementation of the deal for the release of the hostages until now? (total sample; %)**

**Israelis split on whether President Trump could change policy towards Israel, as he has for Ukraine**

Given President Trump's change in policy regarding Ukraine from the Biden Administration, we asked: “What is the likelihood that President Trump will also turn away from Israel, if he thinks that its policies are not aligned with the interests of the United States?” In the total sample, 51.5% think the chance this will happen is fairly low or very low, while a sizable minority (38.5%) think it is fairly or very high. The share of respondents who think there is a high likelihood of an American pivot away from Israel is larger in the Jewish sample (40.5%) than in the Arab sample (30%).

**A majority of Israelis are pessimistic about the state of the economy and social cohesion**

Only one-third (33%) of the total sample expressed optimism about Israel’s economic future, while the majority (63.5%) expressed pessimism. The distribution of these two views is similar among both Jews and Arabs, though the proportion of optimists is slightly larger among Jews (35%) than among Arabs (26%). Similary, just under a third of respondents (30%) are optimistic about social cohesion in the country, compared to a majority (67%) who are pessimistic. Here, too, the share of optimists is larger among Jews (31.5%) than among Arabs (21%), though it is still small.

**Israelis think Netanyahu advisors in the Qatar scandal should be kept at arm's length**

We asked: “After the exposure of the working relations between Prime Minister Netanyahu’s advisors and Qatar, what do you think should be done?” The majority of the public (55.5%) support keeping the advisors at arms’ length from the prime minister until this issue has been clarified, while a quarter think they should be left in their posts as long as they have not been found to have broken the law. In both the Jewish and Arab samples, the share of those who think that the advisors should kept away is more than double the share who think they should be left in their positions.

\*\*\*

*The February 2025 Israeli Voice Index was prepared by the Viterbi Family Center for Public Opinion and Policy Research at the Israel Democracy Institute. The survey was conducted via the internet and by telephone (to include groups that are under-represented on the internet) between February 25–28, 2025, with 605 men and women interviewed in Hebrew and 154 in Arabic, constituting a nationally representative sample of the adult population in Israel aged 18 and over. The maximum sampling error was ±3.56% at a confidence level of 95%. Field work was carried out by Shiluv I2R. The full data file can be found at:* [*https://dataisrael.idi.org.il*](https://dataisrael.idi.org.il)*.*