



JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Benjamin Netanyahu
Office of the Prime Minister
3 Kaplan St.
Hakirya
91950 Jerusalem
Israel

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs, the umbrella for 125 Jewish community relations councils and 17 national organizations*, writes this letter in deep respect for Israel's democratic tradition and its principled stance against all forms of racism and bigotry. We are unwavering in our solidarity with the nation-state of the Jewish people and the country's quest for peace and security.

We are dismayed, however, by reports that a racist party, Otzma Yehudit, was brought into the election process. Otzma Yehudit's detestable policies run counter to the spirit of Israel's Declaration of Independence, which states that the country will "ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." Indeed, Otzma Yehudit's words and deeds are irreconcilable to Israel's founding values.

Mr. Prime Minister, we worry that the inclusion of Otzma Yehudit provides legitimacy for the party's views, sending a message to racists that they can gain a foothold in the democratic process to advance their odious agendas.

We are also concerned, Mr. Prime Minister, that the party's participation in the political process may well damage Israel's standing in the US and the broader international community.

We urge you to speak out against Otzma Yehudit's racism in no uncertain terms and ensure their exclusion from any future government.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Fishbein
JCPA Chair

David Bernstein
JCPA President and CEO

* This letter may not reflect the views of all member organizations.