

The Legislative Assault on Israeli Democracy

13 February 2023

Today – in the Knesset - the first legislative steps towards the end of Jewish democratic rule in the State of Israel were taken.

The words of Hatikvah – “a free people in a free land” were mocked when the Knesset Constitution, Law and Justice Committee approved submitting a bill that would exclude the Supreme Court from the ability to adjudicate on legislation. This will allow the ruling coalition to proceed with their agenda unhindered by constitutional restraint. Rights and freedoms, currently enjoyed by all Jewish citizens, will be restricted as an intolerant majority seeks to narrow citizens’ ability to live, love, trade and teach as they determine. The aspirations of equality and justice in the Declaration of Independence have been officially withdrawn. Even the definition of who is a Jew is slated to be re-defined within narrow parameters.

A totalitarian State is in the making. Jewish Israelis need only look at the web of State control over the lives of Palestinians to understand the increasing role government will take in ordering their lives and livelihoods by curbing civil rights.

The concept of *klal Yisrael* - Jewish Peoplehood – has been desecrated for the sake of power and control by politicians who have little regard for consensus or alternate perspectives. Diaspora Jews who support values of democracy are being de-coupled from the neo-Zionist train.

The only method that can stop or ameliorate this trend is direct action by citizens. Tens of thousands of Israelis from all sectors of society have taken to the streets in protest and have vowed to continue protesting until this legislative process is paused.

We are witness to a profound change in our Israel identification – leaving the question: What are we – collectively and individually –going to do about it?

~~להיות עם חופשי בארצנו~~

*“to be a free nation in our land”
From Hatikvah – Israeli national anthem*