

Israel's new far-right coalition: the time for action is NOW

13 January 2023

On 29 December 2022, Benjamin Netanyahu brought in his unprecedented sixth term as Prime Minister of Israel with the inauguration of the country's most far-right, ultra-Nationalist and religious fundamentalist government to date. Jewish supremacy, racism and homophobia will be the guiding principles for this incoming coalition government, threatening Israeli democracy and worldwide Jewish identity.

Of grave concern, is new government's abandonment of any potential prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians, and the end of the Occupation. **Their first 2 weeks in office have already seen the implementation of plans to erode minority rights, expand illegal settlement development in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and undermine the judicial system.** National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's recent visit to the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East Jerusalem, described as an "unprecedented provocation and dangerous escalation in violence" by the Palestinian Foreign Ministry, is one such example. This follows 2022 being reported as the deadliest year for Palestinians across the Occupied Territories.

Israel's relationship with Diaspora Jewry is more strained than ever before. Whereas previous Israeli governments have paid lip service to the idea of 'Unity of the Jewish People', this new government has slammed the door in the faces of many in the Diaspora. This has been particularly highlighted by the looming introduction of more narrow, Halachically-driven, definitions of who is Jewish, which would impact the [Law of Return and the representation of Reform and other non-Orthodox Jews at religious sites.](#)

Inside Israel, the opposition to this extreme government is also being heard. Thousands of Israelis and Palestinians have already [taken to the streets](#) protesting the new government's attack on democracy, freedoms and identity.

As a South African Jewish Community, our silence is deafening and can no longer be tolerated. Other Diaspora communities have strongly and unequivocally rejected and condemned Israel's far-right, fundamentalist government's ideologies and its violent, destructive agenda.

The Jewish Democratic Initiative calls on our South African communal leadership to publicly condemn ideologies which undermine our dedication to values of dignity, equality and freedom for all. To support the self-determination of the Jewish people in our historical homeland is to condemn both the internal and external threats to its survival, international standing and moral compass.

Let us be guided by the words of our partners in Israel like Rula Daood, National Co-Director of [Standing Together](#):

"We can see right now many laws being advocated for against LGBTQ, against Palestinians, against larger minorities in Israel...We are here to say loud and clear that all of us, Arabs and Jews and different various communities inside of Israel, demand peace, equality and justice"