



# לבנו במזרח



לכבוד ראש ממשלת ישראל  
מר נפתלי בנט

ג' שבט תשפ"ב  
5 ינואר 2021

כבוד ראש הממשלה,

אנחנו קבוצת רבנים ומנהיגי קהילות יהודיות מרחבי העולם ומייצגים מאות מוסדות ומאות אלפי יהודים שלהם אהבה גדולה למדינת ישראל. יחד עם תנועת המזרחי העולמית, אנו גאים בהערכה של קהילתינו לארץ ולמדינת ישראל, אותם אנו רואים כמרכזיים לזהותנו כיהודים.

אנו הקהילה שלא רק מבקרת בארץ אלא גם מייצרת תמיכה משמעותית ביותר למדינה. רבים מחברינו עולים לישראל, וכל חברינו עוסקים בהסברה ולובינג מול נבחרים ומועמדים, והנורמה היא שילדינו לומדים בישראל, ורבים עולים ארצה ומשרתים בצה"ל.

אמנם "ליבנו במזרח" ללא כל ספק, אך לאור המדיניות הנוכחית של הממשלה, אנו נשארים "בסוף מערב", בלי היכולת לבקר בארץ, לחגוג את שמחותנו בארץ ולהישאר בקשר עם קרובינו וחברינו שגרים בארץ. אנו המשפחה שלכם, ואנו רוצים לבקר את "משפחתנו" בארץ.

אנו מוקירים את מאמצי ממשלתך לשמור על ביטחונם של אזרחי ישראל, אבל כמו שאמרת כשר התפוצות - הקשר בין יהודי התפוצות לישראל הוא ייחודי. עבורנו, ישראל איננה יעד תיירותי. היא ביתנו. מניעת גישה לביתנו היא עניין מכאיב, אבל מעבר לכך היא מהווה סכנה שבני קהילתנו יתרגלו לחגוג חגים ושמחות מחוץ למולדת. קהילתנו, ועצם הקשר שלנו לישראל, נמצאים במצוקה.

אנו מודים על השינויים - המתוכננים לחול בשבוע הבא - שיתירו למחוסנים ולמחלימים ממדינות מסוימות להיכנס למדינה. למרות שינוי המדיניות, מיליוני יהודים עדיין יישארו נעולים מחוץ למדינה. אנו מתחננים אליך: עשה כל מה שביכולתך כדי להשאיר את שערי ישראל פתוחים ליהודים מכל העולם.

אנו מאמינים ברגולציה קפדנית של בדיקות וחיסונים כדי לאפשר כניסה, ובתחום זה קהילתנו מהוות דוגמה בארצות שלנו. אנו שומרים על ההנחיות לבדיקות, על עטיית מסכות כשצריך, ועל ריחוק חברתי ועל בידוד לפי ההנחיות של משרד הבריאות המקומיים ועצתם של רשויות הרפואה העולמיות. וכך ננהג גם בארץ, בהיענות לכל הנחיות משרד הבריאות.

אנא, שקול את הנזק העלול להיגרם בקשר של הדור הזה והדורות הבאים עם ישראל, כתוצאה מסגירת שערים בטווח הארוך. אנו מבקשים שתפעל בכל יכולתך כדי לפתוח מחדש את השערים למולדתנו המשותפת בהקדם.

תודה,



The Honorable Prime Minister of the State of Israel  
Mr Naftali Bennett

3 Shevat 5782  
January 5, 2021

Dear Mr Prime Minister,

We are rabbinic and community leaders from across the world representing hundreds of institutions and hundreds of thousands of Jews who share a great love for the State of Israel. Together with the Mizrachi World Movement, we are proud that our communities treasure the Land and State of Israel, and we view it as central to our identity as Jews.

We represent communities that not only visit Israel but are the source of extremely significant support for the State. Many of our members move to Israel, all of our members advocate for Israel with their elected officials, it is the norm that our children study in Israel, and many make Aliyah and serve in the IDF.

“Our hearts undoubtedly are in the East,” but due to the government’s current policies, we remain in the West, unable to visit Israel, celebrate our s’machot in Israel, and stay connected with our relatives and friends who live in Israel. We are your family, and we want to visit our “mishpacha” in Israel.

We applaud your government’s efforts to maintain the safety of all citizens, yet as you noted when you served as the Minister of Diaspora Affairs, the relationship of Diaspora Jewry to Israel is unique. We view Israel not as a tourist destination but as our home. To be denied access to our home is painful, but it also bears a risk that our communities will become more accustomed to celebrating holidays and life cycle events outside of our homeland. Our communities and our connection to Israel are suffering.

We acknowledge the changes planned to commence next week which will enable entry for vaccinated and recovered non-citizens from certain countries. This change of policy still locks millions of Jews out of Israel. We implore you to do everything possible to open the gates of Israel to all Jews around the world.

We believe in the need for rigorous testing protocols and vaccination standards for entry, and our communities have led the way in our respective countries. We follow rigorous PCR testing protocols, masks when medically advised, and quarantine and isolation as prescribed by our local health officials in line with best practices worldwide. And we will do so in Israel complying with all necessary protocols of Israel’s Ministry of Health.

Consider the impact that prolonged closures are having on the current and next generations’ relationship with Israel. We ask you to do everything to reopen the gates to our shared homeland as soon as possible.

Thank you,

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