

ZU-LAT

Equality and Human Rights

Dear [[שם פרטי]],

These are difficult days in Israel. 11 civilians were murdered within one week in heinous terrorist attacks. At a time when outrage and fear are mounting, the media and political discourse have unfortunately chosen the path of hatred and incitement.

As an institute that strives for **equality and human rights**, we believe that terrorism must be fought - and with legal means at that. **We must defend the values we believe in even in difficult times like these, preserve the complex fabric of relations between Jews and Arabs, and continue to make every effort to end our control over millions of Palestinians in the Occupied Territories.**

As usual, in the past quarter we stood at the forefront of various struggles for equality and human rights. Here is a summary of our activities:

Opening Israel's Gates to Ukrainian Refugees

Israel's government policy on accepting refugees from the war in Ukraine has been immoral and illegal. European countries have welcomed millions of women and children fleeing the war, of which only a small fraction have sought political asylum in Israel. Unfortunately, a merciless policy has been piling up obstacles on their entrance to Israel, at times only because they are not Jews.





A position paper formulated by Zulat outlined a **proposal for the absorption of refugees, based on compassion and humanity rather than on numbers and quotas**. We presented this outline at a meeting of the Knesset's Interior Committee, and will forward our recommendations to government ministers.

Freedom of Protest: Law Enacted To Help Prevent Police Violence in Demonstrations

For the first time ever, **a law drafted by Zulat is to join Israel's law book!** This is the "Bodycam Law," which requires policemen to operate their body cameras in demonstrations. In a country rife with demonstrations and protests by one and all, it is important that the mechanisms of democracy should protect all citizens.

[The law passed the first of three hearings](#) , and we will continue to update you on its progress until it becomes reality.

Protecting People's Right To Know



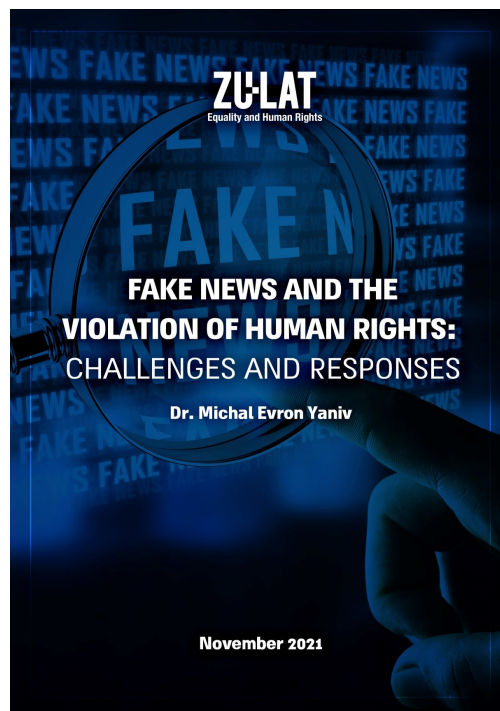
As you probably know, in the aftermath of the social protest that brought about Netanyahu's removal from power, the new government decided to establish a **state commission of inquiry into the purchase of submarines** and other naval vessels from the German firm Thyssenkrupp.

When we learned that the government planned for the commission to hold its hearings behind closed doors, we brought public pressure to bear until the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee (which has the power to overturn such a decision by the government) held two meetings on the issue. And we won! [The Committee voted in favor of our proposal to oblige the government to allow public hearings.](#)

It was a great day for the people's right to know in Israel, whose impact I am confident will continue to be felt in years to come .

Fake News and Human Rights Violations: We Made It to the Knesset

We initiated a special meeting of the Knesset's Constitution Committee in order to discuss our proposals for a **legislative reform to counteract fake news.**



This reform follows a [report we published on the subject](#) , which for the first time showed the connection between fake news and the violation of human rights, especially the right to health and the right to free elections. [The committee's chairman voiced his commitment to pursue the matter.](#)

Progress Toward Finalizing a Constitution for Israel

One of Zulat's long-term goals is to finalize a constitution that will enshrine the status of human rights in legislation. As is known, Israel lacks a constitution but has a few basic laws with similar status.

We are working toward legislating more basic laws and improving existing ones. One of the most important is Basic Law: Human Dignity and Liberty, whose 30th anniversary was marked in a special session of the Knesset, and at which [we submitted our proposal to amend the law to include a clause on equality](#).

We have also been taking part in the legislation of [Basic Law: Rights of Detainees](#) by the Justice Ministry, and we submitted our comments emphasizing the need to preserve the human rights of detainees.

Citizenship Law: The Struggle Continues

After the expiry of the old Citizenship Law, which made life miserable for the spouses of Israel's Palestinian citizens married to Palestinians from the Occupied Territories, [we proposed to replace it with legislation requiring a case-by-case review of each application](#).



Unfortunately, in cooperation with the rightist-conservative opposition, Interior Minister Ayelet Shaked managed to pass a new Citizenship Law that is worse and more cruel than the previous one. We took extensive action in the [mainstream media](#) and in social media platforms to protest this injustice and racist move.

We hope petitions will be submitted to the Supreme Court to the abolishment of this discriminatory law. We will support any such initiative.

And More....

- I moderated [a webinar of "Partners for Progressive Israel"](#)
- Zulat President **Zehava Galon** represented our institute in many events, including the launch of the Hebrew translation of Theodor W. Adorno's book "Aspects of the New Right-Wing Extremism", where she spoke about the Israeli perspective.



- We appeared in parlor meetings and enlisted people to the mission of protecting human rights

WE NEED YOU

We are looking forward to the next quarter of 2022. A major report written for us by the best experts in Israel is due to be published soon. It deals with **the regime in Israel and looks into the question of whether it is a democracy.**

I'm glad to be in touch with you and invite you to contribute to Zulat, so we may continue to act on all fronts and bring about change.

[make a donation](#)

Yours truly,

Einat Ovadia
Executive Director
Zulat for Equality and Human Rights

