



My dear friends,

Two years ago I set up **Zulat for Equality and Human Rights** to fight the delegitimization and onslaught on the humanist and liberal foundations of our democracy. And here I am now to inform you that I have decided to run for leader of Meretz.

This was no easy decision for me. Five years ago I resigned my position as Meretz's leader after serving 16 years in the Knesset. I did not plan to run again but I feel responsible for the fate of Meretz, which polls show barely meeting the qualifying threshold for entering the Knesset, as well as for the fate of Israel's democratic bloc and its alliance with the Palestinian citizens of Israel. I felt I wouldn't be able to look at myself in the mirror if by choosing to continue my important work in Zulat I brought about Netanyahu's reelection. I believe that under my leadership Meretz can increase its strength, reclaim its erstwhile traditional voters, and become a significant power broker. I could not stand by and allow the religious-theocratic bloc led by Netanyahu, Ben-Gvir and Smotrich to return to power.

I informed Zulat's Executive Board of my decision to resign from my position as its president. The institute will continue to work as usual, headed by Executive Director Einat Ovdia, and will go on to score huge accomplishments without me.

And, in the spirit of the rallying cry of Poland's Solidarity movement:
"The winter is yours, but the spring will be ours."

Yours truly,

Zehava Galon

