

Basic Law:

Israel – The Nation-State of the Jewish people

1989/20/5



1. Basic Principles

- (A.) The Land of Israel is the historic homeland of the Jewish people, in which the State of Israel was established.
- (B.) The State of Israel is the nation-state of the Jewish people, in which it exercises its natural, cultural, religious and historic right to self-determination.
- (C.) The exercise of the right to national self-determination in the State of Israel is exclusive to the Jewish people.

2. State Symbols

- (A.) The name of the State is “Israel.”
- (B.) The State of Israel’s flag is white, with two blue stripes along its top and bottom edges, and a blue Star of David at its center.
- (C.) The State of Israel’s official emblem is the Menorah – a seven-branched candelabrum – flanked by olive branches on both sides, with the word “Israel” underneath.
- (D.) The State of Israel’s national anthem is “Hatikvah.”
- (E.) The details regarding the official state symbols will be set in law.

3. The capital of the

State of Israel

The complete and undivided city of Jerusalem is the capital of the State of Israel.

4. Language

- (A.) The language of the State of Israel is Hebrew.
- (B.) The Arabic language enjoys a special status in the State of Israel. The formalization of the use of the Arabic language in government institutions and before them shall be as set in the law
- (C.) The contents of this paragraph shall in no way derogate from the status given in fact to the Arabic language before the application of this Basic Law.

5. The Ingathering of the Exiles

The State of Israel shall be open to Jewish immigration and the ingathering of the exiles.

6. Relationship with the Jewish People

- (A.) The State of Israel shall act to assure the safety of the members of the Jewish people and its citizens who suffer distress or captivity because they are Jewish or because of their citizenship.
- (B.) The State of Israel shall act in the Diaspora to preserve the relationship between the State of Israel and the members of the Jewish people.
- (C.) The State of Israel shall act to preserve the cultural, historical and religious heritage of the Jewish people among the Jews of the Diaspora.

7. Jewish habitation

The State of Israel considers the development of Jewish habitation to be a national value and will act to further encourage and advance the establishment of such habitation.

8. Official Calendar

The Hebrew Calendar is the official calendar of the State of Israel, and alongside it, the civil calendar will serve as an official calendar; the use of the Hebrew calendar and civil calendar will be set in law.

9. Independence Day and Memorial days

- (A.) Independence Day is the official national holiday of the State of Israel.
- (B.) Memorial Day for the Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism and Holocaust Memorial Day are official memorial days of the State of Israel.

10. Days of Rest

Shabbat [Saturday] and the Jewish Holidays are the designated days of rest in the State of Israel; non-Jews are entitled to hold their days of rest on their days of rest and holidays; details regarding this matter will be set in law.

11. Immutability

This Basic Law shall not be amended except by another Basic Law, passed by a majority of Knesset Members.

