

J-Link: The International Progressive Jewish Network



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www.jlinknetwork.org

Re: **APPEAL TO PROGRESSIVE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS TO JOIN IN SAYING “NO” TO UNILATERAL ANNEXATION**

As we celebrate Passover, we are joined in a shared concern for the safety of our families, our communities and those who are vulnerable everywhere. The pandemic has shrunk our lives and focused our attention on our interdependence, within our communities and internationally.

Passover is a time for Jews to reflect on our commitment to freedom, justice, security, and a yearning for a national homeland. There is now an imminent threat to these cherished values. According to the recent coalition draft, the proposed emergency unity government will introduce a Bill in the Knesset within the next three months to annex parts of the West Bank. This will happen without negotiations with the Palestinians, contrary to UN resolutions and International law. A simple majority in the Knesset will end the possibility of a viable two- state solution.

How did this happen? It is the result of a profound slide to the right of Israeli public opinion; of a shifting Israeli political map under the pandemic circumstances; daily defections of Knesset members rushing for political appointments; and the blessing of the Trump administration.

What can we do? We are calling on all progressive Jewish organizations to join us in advocating to Benny Gantz, Gabi Ashkenazi, Amir Peretz and other Knesset members by saying, **“NO to unilateral annexation”**.

Why is this important?

1. Annexation denies Palestinians the right to self-determination, a desire that was fulfilled for the Jewish people after 2,000 years.
2. Israel has had peace and diplomatic relations with Egypt for almost 40 years and with Jordan for 25 years. The absence of war and the vastly important security relations with these two countries has greatly reduced Israel’s security threats. Jordan and Egypt, as well as Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, will not sit by and accept this flagrant breach of law and justice. There is also the danger of domestic instability and the outburst of violence among the Palestinians and within Jordan.
3. Israel’s actions flout international law and gravely breach human rights; as a result, they hurt Israel’s own democracy and could strain its relations with democratic countries around the world.

We all hope that the next generation of Jewish young people will share our deep commitment to Israel. To sustain such a commitment of progressive Jews now and in the future, we need to say:

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“NO to unilateral annexation!”

We are calling on you to either sign with us or write your own similar letter to express your concern.

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**Re: PROGRESSIVE JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ARE CALLING ON YOU TO
SAY “NO” to UNILATERAL ANNEXATION**

April 14, 2020

Dear General Benny Gantz, Chairman of the Knesset (Gabi Ashkenazi, MK; Amir Peretz, MK)

Passover is a time for Jews to reflect on our commitment to freedom, justice, security, and a yearning for a national homeland. There is now an imminent threat to these cherished values. According to the recent coalition draft, your proposed emergency unity government will introduce a Bill in the Knesset within the next three months to annex parts of the West Bank. This will happen without negotiations with the Palestinians, contrary to UN resolutions and international law. A simple majority in the Knesset will end the possibility of a viable two- state solution.

What can we do? We are calling on you to join us in saying, **“NO to unilateral annexation”**.

Why is this important?

1. Annexation extends the occupation and denies Palestinians the right to self-determination, a desire that was fulfilled for the Jewish people after 2,000 years.
2. Israel has had peace and diplomatic relations with Egypt for almost 40 years and with Jordan for 25 years. The absence of war and the vastly important security relations with these two countries has greatly reduced Israel’s security threats. Jordan and Egypt, as well as Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf countries, will not sit by and accept this flagrant breach of law and justice. There is also the danger of domestic instability and the outburst of violence among the Palestinians and within Jordan.
3. Israel’s actions flout international law and gravely breaches human rights; as a result, it hurts Israel’s own democracy and could strain its relations with democratic countries around the world.

We all hope that the next generation of Jewish young people will share our deep commitment to Israel. To sustain such a commitment of progressive Jews now and in the future, you need to say:

“NO to unilateral annexation!”

Yours Respectfully,

J-Link Coordinating Committee

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SIGNATURES:

Ameinu Australia

Ameinu Canada

Ameinu United States

Argentinos Amigos de PAZ AHORA

Brazilian Friends of Peace Now

Canadian Friends of Peace Now

Casa de Cultura (Uruguay)

Habonim Dror South Africa

Hashomer Hatzair World Movement

J-AMLAT (Latin America)

Jcall Europe

Jcall Belgium

Jcall France

Jcall Italy

Jcall Spain

Jcall Switzerland

Jewish Democratic Initiative (South Africa)

Jewish Labor Committee (United States)

Jewish Labour Movement (United Kingdom)

JSpaceCanada

J Street (United States)

La paix maintenant (Peace Now), France

Meretz Australia

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Meretz France

Meretz UK

Meretz Uruguay

New Israel Fund of Canada

New Israel Fund (Germany)

New Israel Fund (United States)

Partners for Progressive Israel (United States)

Policy Working Group (Israel)

Reconstructing Judaism

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (United States)

Truah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights (United States)

Yachad (United Kingdom)

Cercle Martin Buber Geneva

NIF Switzerland and Givat Haviva

Netzer South Africa