

Bills Being Promoted with Government Support

► **Bill to Prohibit Use of the Word “Nazi” and Third Reich Symbols** MK Uri Ariel – National Union

This bill seeks to prohibit the use of the word “Nazi” or similar-sounding words, epithets associated with Nazism and the Third Reich, and symbols related to the Nazis or to the Holocaust. This attempt to dictate how and in what context the Holocaust can be discussed is especially egregious precisely because of the importance and gravity of the Holocaust. This bill aims to forcibly control the public discourse in Israel by way of criminal prohibitions and threats of detention.

► **Libel without Proof of Damages** MK Yariv Levin – Likud and MK Meir Sheerit – Kadima

These were two separate proposed amendments to the Anti-Defamation Law, which were later united into one proposed bill. The first bill authorizes the court to order those who have published libel, including media outlets, to pay punitive damages of NIS 300,000 even without proof of damages – instead of the current penalty of NIS 50,000. The second bill sets the amount of compensation without proof of damages at NIS 500,000.

► **Bill on Foreign Funding of NGOs – Hybrid Version** MK Ofir Akunis– Likud and MK Faina Kirschenbaum – Yisrael Beiteinu

This hybrid bill divides all NGOs receiving funding from foreign state entities into three categories: (1) Those that will be completely banned from receiving it; (2) Those that will be allowed to receive it by virtue of being also funded (now or in recent years) by governmental sources in Israel; (3) All the rest, which will get taxed on this income at a 45% rate, unless they get a waiver from the Knesset. Organizations like ACRI will fall into the third category.

► **Defamation of Public or State Authorities Bill** MK Yaakov Katz – National Union, et al.

This amendment to the Anti-Defamation Law would allow libel suits and even criminal prosecution against anyone slandering the State of Israel or any of its official bodies. Additionally, it would allow any person belonging to a particular slandered faction to file a civil suit against the accused slanderer. In the explanatory notes, the sponsors of the legislation do not hide the fact that their intention is to enable lawsuits and even criminal prosecution against NGOs that provide information on human rights violations and alleged war crimes committed by Israeli soldiers.

► **Preference in Civil Service for Those who Served in Military** MK Hamad Amar – Yisrael Beiteinu

According to this bill, Israeli citizens who have completed



military or national service will be given preference when applying for positions in the public service. The bill discriminates against ethnic minorities and other individuals exempt by law from military service, and stands in contradiction to the value of equal access to employment.

► **Preference in Services for Those who Served in the Military** MK David Rotem – Yisrael Beiteinu

According to this bill, housing, education, and other public services shall be granted preferentially to individuals who have served in the Israeli military or completed national service. The bill discriminates against ethnic minorities and other individuals exempt by law from military service, and stands in contradiction to the value of equal access to governmental services.

► **Pledge of Allegiance to the State, the Flag, and the National Anthem** MK David Rotem – Yisrael Beiteinu

According to this bill, any foreigner seeking to become an Israeli citizen will have to pledge allegiance to the State of Israel as a Jewish, democratic, and Zionist state, and serve a term of military or national service.

► **Anti-Incitement Bill** MK Zevulun Orlev – Bayit HaYehudi Party

An amendment to the existing Penalty Code, this bill states that persons publishing a call that denies the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state shall be imprisoned. This is an extension of an existing criminal offence, and it intends to incriminate a political view that another political group does not accept.

► **Tribunal for Foreigners** government

The bill, an amendment to the Entry to Israel Law, seeks to establish a tribunal for immigration and status matters within the Ministry of Justice for non-Jewish foreigners (primarily partners of citizens and residents, children in East Jerusalem, and migrant workers) seeking to obtain legal status in Israel. Because the judges of this court shall be employed by the executive branch and will be allowed to rule without holding any public debate, this bill will promote a dangerous new reality in which the entire immigration process and status of non-Jews will be in the hands of the Ministries of Justice and Interior exclusively, with no external oversight.

► **Bill to Protect Israel's Values** MK Uri Ariel – National Union

According to this bill, organizations whose activities “harm the State of Israel as a Jewish state” shall not be permitted to operate in Israel and will be shut down.

Bills the Government Has yet to Endorse or Reject

► **Declaration of Loyalty Bill** MK Danny Danon – Likud

According to this bill, as a condition for receiving any official document of the state (e.g. an identity card, a passport, or a driver’s license), citizens would be required to declare their loyalty to the State of Israel and to its values as a Jewish and democratic state. This bill infringes on a range of basic rights of Israeli citizens, including their freedom of expression and freedom of opinion.

► **Basic Law: Israel the Nation-State of the Jewish People** MK Avi Dichter – Kadima, et al.

This bill seeks to define Israel as “the national home of the Jewish people,” legally subordinating the state’s democratic character to its Jewish one. The bill further stipulates that Arabic will no longer be an official language of the state (rather a “special status” language), that Hebrew Law shall serve as a source of inspiration for the legislator, and that the establishment of separate communal settlements for members of one religion or nationality shall be allowed, thereby making a statutory norm of existing practices of racial discrimination in housing.

► **Denying Entry to Israel** MK Yariv Levin – Likud and MK Yaakov Edri – Kadima

According to this bill, entry to Israel will be denied those foreign nationals who are involved in boycotts against Israel, have filed lawsuits against Israeli military and government officials because of their military activity, or deny the Holocaust.

► **Pledge of Allegiance for Civil Servants and Council Members** MK Lia Shemtov – Yisrael Beiteinu, et al.

According to this bill, members of local and city councils, as well as some other civil servants, will be required to pledge allegiance to Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

► **Associations Law – Amendment** MK Ronit Tirosh – Kadima

According to this bill, an NGO that is involved in the filing of lawsuits abroad against senior Israeli politicians and army officers will be shut down.



Bills Aimed at Weakening the Supreme Court

► **Restricting Public Petitions to the High Court of Justice** MKYariv Levin – Likud and MK Danny Danon – Likud

This bill seeks to limit the ability of human rights organizations to file petitions to the High Court, by restricting “public petitioners” – organizations that file petitions against state authorities even though they are not directly harmed in the case.

► **The Courthouses Order (Proposed Amendment – Appointing a President)** MK Yaakov Katz – National Union

Lowers the minimal tenure for a Supreme Court President from three to two years in order to enable the presidency of Justice Asher Grunis.

► **Transparency of Procedures to Appoint Supreme Court Justices** MKYariv Levin – Likud and MK Ze’ev Elkin – Likud

Every judge and president appointed to the Supreme Court would have to undergo a hearing in the Knesset Constitution Committee, which can then veto the appointment.

► **Bill to Defer High Court Rulings on Legality of Bills** MK Yaakov Katz– National Union

According to this bill, if the High Court rules that a particular bill is unconstitutional and therefore should be annulled, the ruling will come into effect only after a year has passed since the ruling was issued.

► **Bill Banning High Court from Ruling on Security-Related Matters** MK Yaakov Katz – National Union, et al.

According to the bill, the High Court may not set any binding rulings on matters related to security and threats to human life. It may state its position, but that position will not be binding to the government.

► **Basic Law: Constitution Court** MK David Rotem – Yisrael Beiteinu

This bill seeks to establish a new Constitution Court, and stipulates that the justices be required to pledge allegiance to a Jewish state, that votes be unanimous, and other criteria that will harm the separation of powers, human rights, and democratic values.

► **Bill to Disallow High Court from Ruling on Citizenship Law** MK David Rotem – Yisrael Beiteinu, et al.

According to the bill, the High Court will not be authorized to rule on the Citizenship Law (Temporary Order), which in its current form prevents Palestinians from the Occupied Territories from attaining citizenship through family ties to Israeli citizens and residents.

