

Public statement

24 January 2023

We, senior faculty members at law schools in Israel, strongly oppose the regime change that the Israeli government is promoting under the guise of “legal reforms”. These far-reaching constitutional changes include providing the government with absolute control over the appointment of the judiciary; near complete elimination of judicial review; dissolution of civil-servant ministerial legal counsels as gatekeepers; and undermining the freedom of the press. In aggregation, these proposals suffocate the independence of the judiciary, dissolve the separation of powers between the branches of governments, and eliminate the rule of law. No recognized democratic country in the world operates under such conditions. The combination of the proposed changes is alarming and dangerous. It will bring far-reaching infringements of human rights, and strip Israel’s system of government of fundamental features of its structure as a democracy.

We call on those involved in the legislative process to avoid hasty constitutional legislation that would transform the character of the State of Israel, and we urge them to initiate a process of open, respectful, and tolerant deliberation with the aim of reaching broad agreements on these deeply consequential matters.

1.	Dr.	Ely	Aaronson	University of Haifa
2.	Dr.	Yehuda	Adar	University of Haifa
3.	Dr.	Einat	Albin	Hebrew University
4.	Dr.	Omer	Aloni	Zefat Academic College
5.	Prof.	Orna	Alyagon Darr	Sapir Academic College
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12.	Prof.	Gad	Barzilai	University of Haifa
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14.	Dr.	Ido	Baum	College of Management Academic Studies
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16.	Prof.	Orna	Ben-Naftali	College of Management Academic Studies
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19.	Prof.	Eyal	Benvenisti	Hebrew University and Cambridge University
20.	Prof.	Leora	Bilsky	Tel Aviv University
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160.	Dr.	Sigal	Shahav	College of Law and Business

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181.	Dr.	Ofer	Tur-Sinai	Ono Academic College
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