



Prime Minister Netanyahu
By email

Dear Prime Minister Netanyahu,

I am the Chairman of the Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue, a synagogue in the suburbs of London with over a thousand members. It is with great disappointment and shock that our members learned that the bill proposed by MK David Rotem to change the laws of conversion has been sent out of committee to the full Knesset. I write on behalf of our members to seek your immediate intervention to prevent this destructive piece of legislation from receiving further hearings in Knesset.

We agree with the need to make conversion easier, and make access to conversion courts in Israel simpler and more fair but the Rotem bill will create a divide between Jews that would be impossible to ford and strain relationships between Israel and the Jews of the Diaspora. This will happen at a time when Israel needs all the support it can muster – from every corner of the world. The essential Law of Return would be forever altered and this bill would cede responsibility for all conversions to the aegis of the Chief Rabbinate. This law would also require converts to live an Orthodox lifestyle – mandating that practice as the only legitimate form of Jewish life. This would delegitimize Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist Jews in Israel and around the world – something that is completely intolerable to us.

As deeply committed Jews – Jews who labour for the continued health and security of the State of Israel and your advocates in England, we implore you to act quickly and decisively in quashing this bill and returning it to consideration with the consultative process established by Natan Sharansky. Your active intervention at this time may be the only thing that can prevent a rupture in Israel's relationship with over 85% of the world's Jews - who are non-Orthodox. We need your help now.

Yours sincerely

David Edelman
Chairman