

## לשכת יושב הראש Office of the Chairman

Jerusalem, March 28, 2023 Nisan 6, 5783

Dear friends,

We don't know what the future holds, but still, we see the importance of updating you regarding the most recent developments in Israel, which, for the first time during this current crisis, carries optimism and hope for a breakthrough that will benefit the entire Jewish people.

The past few days and the controversial decisions that have been made are heartbreaking and alarming for anyone who loves Israel and cares about its future. Keren Hayesod and our entire leadership together, with other leading organizations, have advocated for a slowdown of the judicial reform and supported a dialogue between all parties based on mutual respect and the desire to find common ground and a broad consensus.

Yesterday was a significant step in that direction as Prime Minister Netanyahu announced that he is delaying the proposed judicial legislation that has set off civil unrest in Israel and with some of our brothers and sisters around the world and is seeking to enter a dialogue with all parties representing the diverse voices of the people of Israel, coalition and opposition alike. This was followed by positive statements by the leaders of the major parties of Israel, with President Isaac Herzog potentially being the one to mediate the negotiations and lead the dialogue toward a broader consensus. We support this process and endorse it with all our hearts.



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This comes just a few days before Passover, when we will all remember our collective history of becoming a people with a shared mission and fate. This also comes before the national holidays of Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut. It is vital that the debate be postponed for a few weeks, giving us a chance to come together in these days to reflect and take pride in Israel's 75 years of independence.

We hope that the spirit of unity that began yesterday will begin a process of healing the wounds of the past few months and perhaps turn this crisis into an opportunity that will benefit the whole country.

Sincerely,

Steven Lowy AM Chairman, World Board of Trustees Sam Grundwerg World Chairman