



## IFE-EFI STATEMENT

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Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI

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### **No to apartheid, justice for Palestinian people**

The Israeli Knesset approved on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July the National Law with the majority stipulating that Israel is the Jewish people homeland. It is stating that the right to self-determination in the Israeli State is merely limited to Jews. It also declares that the emigrants eligible to get the Israeli citizenship are now only Jews. The law states that Jerusalem is installed as the capital of Israel, Hebrew is the only official language of the State, Arabic is not considered official anymore and the State encourages and legalizes the Jewish settlement throughout Palestine. The law clearly states that "the State sees the development of Jewish settlement as a national value and will act to encourage and promote its establishment and consolidation". This will allow Netanyahu's government to expand the State's annexation of Palestinian lands in the occupied West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem in a new violation of International Law.

This law is not the first discriminative one. The law on Israeli citizenship (1952) and the law on entering Israel (1974), as well as the amendments made in 2003 and 2007 have already contributed to create first and second class citizens. However, now it's openly stated and official and the new Basic Law, which carries greater weight than normal legislation, would marginalize 1.8 million Palestinians holding Israeli citizenship.

A first version of the bill was introduced in 2011 by a member of Netanyahu's right-wing Likud party. Now the law is adopted and it is the most dangerous one enacted by the Knesset as it legalizes discrimination in specifying the rights between Jews and Arabs, and settlement on the occupied land of the 1967 aggression. In addition, this law kills all hopes for a two States solution and abolishes the refugees' right of return. As Leila Shahid, ex ambassador of Palestine in the EU, stated "This text legitimates posteriori all what has been done since 1948. The fiction of a democratic State is contradicted by the Knesset's decision which legalizes apartheid".

Tens of thousands of people, Jews and Arabs, rallied in Tel Aviv to protest the controversial law. The week before thousands from the Druze minority gathered to demand "Equal rights for all citizens".

The EU diplomacy is once more expressing concerns but continue having "upgraded" relations of cooperation with the Israeli government. Meanwhile the UN system is failing in providing minimal protection to the Palestinians. The US continue supporting the apartheid system in Israel, blocking the implementation of UN resolutions and Israel accountability towards its crimes against Palestinians.

In addition to that US is now planning to limit drastically the UNRWA funds hampering the refugee status for the Palestinians and consequently their right to return.

How many more years shall the Palestinians suffer from the brutality of the occupation and the continuous deprivation of their rights? What about the Palestinian fundamental rights recognized by the international community and enshrined through several United Nations Resolutions? When will Israeli Government impunity finally end?

**Euromed Feminist Initiative** joins the voices of all protestors around the world and calls once more for:

- The annulment by EU of the enhanced status with the Israeli government in respect of article 2 of the European Neighborhood policies regulations. The articles states not to agree on enhanced status with any Southern Neighbor State where human rights are violated.

- Immediate steps on UN level towards ending the Palestinian occupation and for the urgent protection of Palestinian people.

- The recognition of an independent Palestine State in 1967 borders, with full sovereignty and with East Jerusalem as its capital. Along with the respect of the right of the Palestinians to return to their home land, as a necessary step and a precondition for transparent and participatory comprehensive peace process in the whole region.

*Euromed Feminist Initiative IFE-EFI advocates for gender equality and women's universal human rights as inseparable from democracy building and citizenship, for political solutions to all conflicts, and for the right of peoples to self-determination.*

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