

**Miki Gitzin, CEO of the Israeli branch of the New Israel Fund:**

The Western Wall is one of the holiest places for Jews. So why, for God's sake, can't all the Jews pray near it?

What many may not understand is that the battle is not only about the Wall, but about the image of Judaism in Israel and about the future of the entire Jewish people. No less.

A short review for those who are not familiar with the issue:

After years of negotiations and under legal pressure, the Israeli government decided on the Western Wall Outline, according to which a new and egalitarian prayer area would be established.

However, under pressure from the ultra-Orthodox parties, Netanyahu announced that the outline had been postponed, postponed, postponed and ultimately canceled.

57% of the Jews of the United States of America are either Reform or Conservative, and not only can none of them pray at the Western Wall as they would like, but it seems that the State of Israel, headed by Netanyahu, has been working for hours to keep them away from the State of Israel.

Recently, these Jews in Israel and the Diaspora had to see Prime Minister Netanyahu silent, while Trump compares the leftist demonstrators to the neo-Nazis, the Minister of Religious Affairs and the Deputy Foreign Minister, who say that the Reformers are emptying Judaism of its content or hear the promises that these Jews will all disappear soon, as they say in the ultra-Orthodox parties.

It seems as if there is no act taken by this Government which is not being justified by slogans of Zionism, Jewish identity or Jewish state. But let's face it, if we return to the essence of Zionism, according to which Israel is supposed to be a national home for the Jewish people, there has never been an anti-Zionist government like this one.

The Netanyahu government teaches most Jews in the world that this is not their home. The time has come to stop severing the ties between Israel and Diaspora Jewry. The time has come to establish an open, wide, egalitarian and inclusive national home.