

# Court slams gov't for excluding women from training course for Haredi men

Or Kashti

A labor court in Jerusalem has ruled that the government must desegregate a single-sex civil service training course within 30 days, or it will be halted. The decision is a blow to those who support institutionalizing frameworks that have separation between the sexes for ultra-Orthodox communities in the army, the academic world and the civil service.

The state will need to add at least 10 women to the training course, which is designed for Haredim and is considered one of the flagship programs of the Civil Service Commission. It opened about two months ago with enrollment for men only, and currently has about 20 participants.

"The government undermined the basic right of women to equality, and thereby to equal employment opportunities," wrote Judge Rachel Barag-Hirschberg of the Jerusalem Regional Labor Court, responding to a petition filed by the Israel Women's Network, which promotes women's equality. The judge was not satisfied with the promise that a separate course for women will open in about six months and stated that starting it much later than the men's course



Ultra-Orthodox women working in a women-only office in Elad in 2016.

Ofir Vaknin

does not compensate for the inequality that has been created.

In the weeks preceding the course's opening, the Civil Service Commission repeatedly rejected the warnings of the Women's Network that it constituted a severe blow to the right to equality. One reason is

that the program is a pilot which will guide various decisions, including how to treat gender separation, going forward.

Off the record, the organizations participating in the program recognized the blow to women's rights, but claimed that integrating Haredim into the civil ser-

vice was more important. The civil service also stated that although the training course is gender-segregated, the actual work will be in a mixed environment, and that registration recently began for a women's class, which is scheduled to open in October. The course is also sponsored by an ultra-Orthodox

foundation and is in effect run by the Jewish Statesmanship Center, a conservative organization identified with the right wing. The rejection of a separate training course echoes a similar viewpoint expressed by the Jerusalem District Court about a month and a half ago regarding separate training courses for

ultra-Orthodox tour guides. Under pressure from the court, the Tourism Ministry canceled its intention to conduct single-sex courses.

The High Court of Justice has also discussed petitions that academics brought forward against the Council for Higher Education's policy of offering separate academic courses for the ultra-Orthodox.

According to the Jerusalem Regional Labor Court's ruling, opening jobs in the civil service for only men means that "the sex of the candidate - male - is a criterion according to which the candidate was hired" and that this is "a forbidden consideration" in light of the Employment (Equal Opportunities) Law.

"To our regret, there was a need for the intervention of the court in order to prevent [gender] separation at work," said Michal Gera Margalio, the managing director of the Israel Women's Network.

The Civil Service Commission said in response that it "is studying the decision." According to sources in the commission, "The program, in which there is a short period of separation, is the only way to enable the various circles and groups in the Haredi population to enter the civil service."

## How Trump has politicized Holocaust education in America

Steven Davidson

"So, to recap from last class, how did Hitler mobilize German support for elections during the early '30s?" I asked. Several hands were raised - promise jobs for every Aryan, down with the disgraceful Treaty of Versailles and the traitors who signed it, blame the Jews, fear the Jews.

Or, as one student answered simply: "Make Germany Great Again."

Whether to make the connections between then and now clear became the moral quandary of the two-month Holocaust unit I taught my 6th grade Hebrew school class in Brooklyn.

Connect Donald Trump with Nazi Germany, and I'm politicizing and trivializing the Holocaust - not to mention fueling the gaslit accusations of Nazism tossed around all corners of political discourse.

But seemingly before every class, news broke that day hearkening back to our history lessons. In Poland, state-sanctioned Holocaust denial. At home, a pile of children's shoes left at a march decrying "Never Again." A government official refusing orders to spread racist falsehoods. Not to mention the many prominent White House officials who did so in their spare time - and most frequently, the deluge of presidential tweets attacking today's "lügenpresse" and stirring conspiracies about "criminal" and "rapist" outsiders.

We must teach the Holocaust because human beings just like us both suffered and committed such unspeakable acts, and so it can happen again. By understanding this past, the thinking goes, our youth are equipped to recognize and stem the forces of hatred that condemned our ancestors throughout Jewish history to such horrors before. But we framed and honed this approach when preparing our kids for this scenario felt more like a fire drill than for anything imminent. Current events make it apparent to my students and myself it doesn't feel that way anymore.

Trump echoes and amplifies a nativist past - even its lexicon - too strongly to have gone unnoticed in our Hebrew school class. I am one of hundreds of Jewish educators across Canada and the U.S. to utilize the Holocaust curriculum developed by the non-profit organization Facing History & Ourselves. Facing History, which says it helps students "learn about hatred and bigotry so they can stop them from happening in the future," focuses its Holocaust curriculum on Nazi Germany's step-by-step escalation of persecution in the context of human behavior and individual choices, exploring concepts like in-group vs. out-group bias and scapegoating.

Since 1976, Facing History & Ourselves has educated over half a million students in the U.S. and Canada about the Holocaust. Its curriculum precedes Trump's ascension, but it was astonishing how relevant it has sometimes felt. One of my Facing History lessons explored the sociological concept of the universe of obligations - to whom we believe is owed society's protection and respect, and how we determine who we care for before others. The lesson tasked me with writing a quote on the board:

"I love my daughters more than my nieces, my nieces more than my cousins, my cousins more than my neighbors. But that doesn't mean that we detest our neighbors." Thinking of their own families, nearly all of the kids agreed with the quote - except for one always-skeptical student of mine. She wondered what ugliness you may find if you create a whole society that places kin over strangers.

I revealed to the class who said that quote: Jean-Marie Le Pen, Holocaust denier and renowned xenophobe. The name sounded familiar, and I told them he is the father of Marine Le Pen, who had recently lost her anti-Muslim campaign for the French

presidency fashioned in a similar populist vein as Donald Trump.

"[The quote] is like America First," a student realized. Indeed, teaching the Holocaust has become politicized. But how we teach the Holocaust hasn't really changed; it's the circumstances we are teaching them in that has.

Educating Jewish children to shield the oppressed and those seeking refuge - recalling that you were once a stranger in the land of Egypt, a spurned refugee in America - never really felt political in previous years. But now, such human decency is a political statement itself. And as former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright recently warned on the same subject, "If one were to draft a script chronicling fascism's resurrection, the abdication of America's moral leadership would make a credible first scene."

That moral abdication isn't supposed to be normal in America. And not to acknowledge what isn't normal to my kids is how normalization occurs. As I told the class what Elie Wiesel once said, "Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

Trump is such a cultural phenomenon, however, that even kids in America aren't neutral. My sixth graders generally hate Trump because nearly all their parents do.

But what makes Trump so personally relevant for them is how he surfaces in every crude meme online and bad impression on the playground. He hijacks the moral fiber of American culture in a way no politician ever has. They may know next to nothing about his policies, but all my students understand what Donald Trump represents - at least in their own social bubble.

**We've taught our kids about the Holocaust as an abstract, remote fire drill. Now, it doesn't feel that way anymore.**

The cultural transformation that German society underwent reverberated with my kids in this way. When I explained what a cult of personality is, it reminded one student of *h/t*The Donald subreddit - the Reddit community of MAGA trolls that developed its own language communicating bigotry and cruel jokes, serving as dutiful "pedes" to their proclaimed "God Emperor" - Donald J. Trump. During another lesson, a couple of students related the Brown-shirts and Nazi rallies to Trump encouraging and retweeting violence on his behalf.

My students did not make these connections because they see death camps in America. They did because so much of what came before the camps - the conspiracies to stoke paranoia, the false equivalences to arouse indignation - to whom we believe is owed society's protection and respect, and how we determine who we care for before others. The lesson tasked me with writing a quote on the board:

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Steven Davidson is a writer and journalist.

## Snafu allows Dublin mayor to enter Israel despite ban

Noa Landau

The interior and strategic affairs ministers, Arye Dery and Gilad Erdan, announced Tuesday that

they had barred Dublin Lord Mayor Micheál Mac Donncha from entering the country because of his ties to movements boycotting Israel. There was just

one problem: Mac Donncha had already passed through Ben-Gurion Airport and was on his way to Ramallah. The Interior Ministry

claimed the reason for the error was that Mac Donncha's name was incorrectly spelled in the request it had been given to block his entry. The Strategic Affairs Ministry, however, insists Mac Donncha's name was spelled correctly in the documentation it passed on to the Population, Immigration and Border Authority, and even provided a screenshot that seems to prove this.

Dery ordered his ministry's director-general, Mordechai Cohen, to investigate how Mac Donncha managed to enter the country despite the ban.

"The probe is necessary in order to prevent such mishaps in the future and to glean lessons from what happened," Dery said. "In any case, with the Lord Mayor of Dublin's departure, and in light of his activity against Israel, I've instructed that a letter be delivered to him that will prohibit him from entering Israeli territory in the future."

On Tuesday, both the interior and strategic affairs ministries released statements saying they had denied Mac Donncha entry because of his ties to the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign, which promotes boycotts of Israeli companies and international companies who work in Israel. The Strategic Affairs Ministry said the mayor promoted the organization's messages through deci-

sions made by the Dublin city council and by publicly supporting it. According to Erdan, "The policy I've set is clear: whoever works consistently to boycott Israel will not enter here."

Minutes after Haaretz reported the ministry announcements, Mac Donncha tweeted that he was already in the West Bank city of Ramallah. "I can confirm I am in Ramallah and preparing for tomorrow's conference," he wrote. Mac Donncha had been invited by the Palestinian Authority to attend a conference on the status of the Jerusalem municipality.

A spokeswoman for the immigration authority confirmed that he had entered. Erdan's spokesman said, "I issued the announcement after I saw the Interior Ministry had issued it, and it controls the crossings." Dery's spokesman made do with saying, "Something went wrong."

In a statement Wednesday, the Strategic Affairs Ministry said it "wished to clarify that it transferred to the immigration authority, which supervises border crossings, the full and correct name of Dublin's mayor as it appears on his official site."

A WhatsApp image was enclosed with a spelling that includes Mac Donncha's lord mayoral title in Irish Gaelic, Ardmhéara, as part of his name.

The Strategic Affairs Ministry provided a document to Haaretz in which it



Dublin Lord Mayor Micheál Mac Donncha

Facebook

recommended Mac Donncha's ban include both the correct and incorrect spelling of his name.

In January, Ireland's Ambassador to Israel Alison Kelly was summoned by the Foreign Ministry for a clarification meeting over a legislative initiative in Ireland to boycott trade with the settlements - even though a vote on the bill was postponed indefinitely. Kelly stressed during that conversation that independent parliamentarians in the Irish Senate had initiated the bill and that the Irish government opposed it.

In a conversation with Rodica Radian-Gordon, the Foreign Ministry's deputy director general for European Affairs, Kelly said that the legislation was not spurred by the BDS movement and that the Irish government opposes the movement.

## U.S. embassy move stalled, despite government efforts

Yael Darel

The conversion of the American consulate in Jerusalem into an embassy was exempted from needing a building permit, and a contractor has been chosen to do the work, but the chances of it being completed by Independence Day are slim, TheMarker has learned.

The reason is that no funds have been committed for building a wall around the embassy, one of the main safety precautions demanded by the Trump administration.

The project involving the transfer of the embassy to the capital made headlines a few weeks ago, with the U.S. administration announcing that the embassy would be moved to Jerusalem in May, close to Israel's 70th independence celebrations. According to the plan, which waived the requirement of a building

permit due to the intervention of Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, the embassy would first operate out of the consulate building in the Arnona neighborhood until a permanent site was selected.

Before moving David Friedman, the U.S. ambassador in Israel, to Jerusalem, the Americans posed some security demands. These included the paving of a 750-meter-long, 7-meter-wide escape route and the building of a 3.2-meter-high perimeter wall.

To do the work, the Americans chose the Moriah Jerusalem Development Corporation, which issued their own bid for a subcontractor. Six million shekels (about \$1.7 million) for paving the escape route will be provided by the Prime Minister's Office, with the work expected to begin next week.

Before the holiday, Jerusalem municipality director-general Amnon Merhav

sent a letter to the PMO, the Foreign Ministry and the head of the National Security Council, warning them of impediments to the building of the perimeter wall.

He stated there were no plans or blueprints for building the wall, without which the work could not be done. "This means that the work has little chance of being completed by mid-May," he wrote. Merhav also said the city had not received a firm commitment by the state for financing the building of the wall. "Without such a commitment the work cannot commence," he said.

Moriah's attorney Doron Neuwirth confirmed the plans, adding that the project was complex, with security considerations and a short timetable.

The Jerusalem municipality said the road was budgeted and the work could begin. Funding for the wall was in the final stages of discussion.

### Prime Minister's Office - Government Teleprocessing Authority Framework Tender no. 15/17 For choosing suppliers for the supply and maintenance of communications and information security products

- The Prime Minister's Office - The Government Teleprocessing Authority (hereinafter: "The Office") is requesting bids for choosing suppliers for the supply and maintenance of communications and information security products, in accordance with the needs of the Office and with the explanation in the tender document.
- The products will be supplied in the following 6 baskets:
  - Basket no. 1 - Cisco products
  - Basket no. 2 - Radware products
  - Basket no. 3 - Support products and control and monitoring products
  - Basket no. 4 - Information security products
  - Basket no. 5 - Network monitoring and optimization products
  - Basket no. 6 - Tools for checking apps
 Two suppliers will be chosen for each basket
- The period of the contract in the tender will be for three years, in accordance with the agreement attached to the tender. The Office is permitted to extend the period of the contract for two additional years, in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.
- Summary of the professional threshold conditions for participation in the tender (the full and binding conditions are explained in the tender documents):**
  - Regarding Basket no. 1: The bidder is a licensed supplier of Cisco products in Israel and is defined at least as a Gold Certified partner.
  - Regarding Basket no. 2: The bidder is a licensed supplier of Radware products in Israel and is defined at least as a Premier Certified partner.
  - Regarding each one of the other baskets (Basket no. 3, Basket no. 4, Basket no. 5 and Basket no. 6):
    - The bidder is a licensed supplier on behalf of the manufacturer of all the products included in the baskets for which the bidder has decided to submit a bid, and is authorized by the manufacturer to support them in Israel; in spite of the above, regarding baskets no. 3, 4 and 6 the bidder will be permitted to meet this condition on his own or by means of subcontractors on his behalf, as long as they are included in the bid.
    - The bidder has at least 3 customers for each of which he executed at least one project in the field of information systems, for a minimum sum of 3 million shekels per project, during the period beginning on January 1, 2015, and until the final date for submitting bids;
    - The bidder employs at least 15 full-time permanent employees in Israel, who provide integration services in the fields of information systems and information security;
    - The bidder operates a support center in Hebrew and supports the products included in the basket, on a 24/7 basis, 365 days a year.
    - The bidder, or a subcontractor on his behalf who is included in the bid, has proven experience as defined in the tender documents, in supplying the products, their components, the professional licenses and services he is offering in this tender, in the period beginning on January 1, 2015 and until the final date for submitting bids.
    - Among the bidder's permanent employees (or employees of the subcontractor[s] included in the bid) there are at least 2 support engineers for each product included in the basket, who are certified by the manufacturer of the products included in the basket for which the bidder is submitting a bid, and each of whom has two years of experience in providing support services for these products, in the period beginning on January 1, 2015 and until the final date for submitting bids.
- Summary of the administrative threshold conditions for participation in the tender:**
  - The bidder is in possession of any certificate and/or license and/or licensing and/or permit required pursuant to any law, and is listed in every registry conducted pursuant to any law and that is related to the subject of the contract.
  - The bidder is in possession of valid authorizations in his name, pursuant to the Public Bodies Transactions Law, 5736 - 1976, and meets the conditions and provisions required by this law.
  - The bidder must be a corporation legally registered in Israel, without any annual fee debts to the Registrar of Companies/Partnerships.
  - The bidder, the bidder's general manager and each of its controlling owners have not been convicted of a security offense or a fiscal offense, and other offenses described in the invitation to submit bids, unless the statute of limitations has expired.
  - The bidder does not have a "going concern" warning concerning the corporation, in the inspected financial reports for the past two tax years.
  - The bidder has attached to his bid a deposit for securing the bid, for each basket included in his bid, as explained in the tender documents.
  - The bidder must receive security approval for receiving the tender documents as required in paragraph 1.5 of the invitation to submit bids.
- Anyone requesting the tender documents will undergo a security briefing, including signing documents, as required, in order to receive approval from the authorized security entities. It is clarified that approval by the authorized security entities constitutes a precondition for receiving the tender documents.
- Anyone requesting the tender documents must coordinate a date with the Tenders Committee center, by email: rechesh@cio.gov.il, in order to undergo a security briefing, as mentioned. The security briefing will take place in the Energy Building (gov.il building) on 1 Netanel Lorch St. in Jerusalem. The security briefing must be completed no later than May 24, 2018, in order to receive the tender documents.
- Following the above-mentioned security briefing, and the receipt of approval from the authorized security entities, the tender documents will be available from the Tenders Committee center, by appointment.
- Questions and requests for clarifications should be sent by email to the Tenders Committee center at: rechesh@cio.gov.il, no later than May 10, 2018.
- The Office's replies and clarifications, as well as notices from the Office - including any change and clarification in the tender documents, including changes initiated by the Office and not as a result of clarification questions from any of the potential participants - will be sent, without identifying the participant who sent the question, to the participants who have undergone the above-mentioned security briefing and have been approved to receive the tender documents. The Office reserves the right to publish changes and clarifications to the tender documents, even if they do not arise from the clarification questions received from the bidders, up to a reasonable time before the final date for submitting bids, and they will be sent to the above-mentioned participants. These replies and clarification will constitute an integral part of the tender documents.
- Submitting bids:** Bids should be submitted in Hebrew to the Office's Tenders Box on the entrance floor of the E-Government Building (gov.il), 1 Netanel Lorch Street, Jerusalem, no later than June 7, at 2 P.M. It is clarified that bids should not be sent by post. **Any bid that is not found in the Office's Tenders Box on the final date for submitting bids, for any reason whatsoever, will not be discussed at all, will not participate in the tender and will be returned to the bidder. This notice contains essential information only. In the event of a contradiction or inconsistency between the contents of this notice and the provisions of the tender documents - the contents of the tender documents take precedence over the provisions of this notice. The tender was also published in the Hebrew language press and the definitive version is the one published in Hebrew.**