



Survey: Israelis Believe Government Should Assist Diaspora Communities Hurt by COVID-19

Findings Reveal Public Wants Minister of Diaspora Affairs to be Professional Appointment

The Israeli public believes the government is managing the COVID-19 crisis well but should provide greater assistance to Diaspora communities hurt by the situation, according to a new survey commissioned by the Ruderman Family Foundation. Findings also show most of the public would like to see more solidarity between Israel and world Jewry during these times.

The survey examined the public's attitudes towards the Israeli government actively aiding Jewish communities in the Diaspora suffering from the current crisis. A large majority of the respondents – 85 percent – think Israel needs to share its experience preparing for, and managing, emergency situations at the community level. Only 13% did not think such an initiative was necessary or were opposed to it. Moreover, 63% said they are in favor of sending aid in the form of medicine, food, and medical equipment to Jews in the Diaspora, while 20% were opposed.

"As the COVID-19 crisis continues to affect the Jewish world, it is heartwarming to see the support of the Israeli public towards Jewish communities around the world," said Jay Ruderman, President of the Ruderman Family Foundation. "Israel has come a long way understanding its role towards the American Jewish community, and this crisis provides an opportunity to further strengthen the important relationship between the sides."

Conducted by Dialogue, a Tel Aviv-based consulting company, the survey findings are based on responses from 505 Jewish adults in Israel and has a 4.5% margin of error.

When asked about Israel providing monetary aid to Jewish institutions like schools, synagogues or community centers in financial troubles due to the COVID-19 crisis, the public split: 49% said Israel should provide such aid, while 47% opposed or did not think it was needed.

Seventy percent of respondents said they would like to see more solidarity between all parts of the Jewish People during this crisis, with 41% strongly agreeing it was needed, and 29% saying it was somewhat needed. Only 5% said there was no need to enhance solidarity these days.

Additionally, the survey found nearly three of four (73%) people believed the Israeli government was dealing with the health crisis in a good to excellent way, while only 10% thought it had failed to do so. Also, 52% of the people were following news from Diaspora communities closely (18%) or with interest (34%). Only 15% said they were not interested in knowing how Diaspora communities were considering the virus.



Findings showed a split regarding Israel's responsibility to fund and develop educational programs for Diaspora Jews. Less than one quarter, 23%, fully supported the idea, and an additional 31% supported it somewhat; 18% objected, and 20% "hardly" supported it.

The survey comes on the heels of a joint statement initiated by the Foundation which backed establishing a stronger connection to American Jewry. The statement was signed by over 100 prominent Israelis including soccer players Eran Zahavi, Almog Cohen and Tomer Hemed; actors Moran Atias and Guri Alfi; Justice (ret.) Elyakim Rubinstein; singer Ester Rada; Judoka Sagi Muki; Israel Prize winner Miriam Peretz and Director-General of Shamir Medical Center (Assaf Harofeh) Dr. Osnat Levtzion-Korach.

In addition to the immediate needs, the survey examined the Israeli public's thoughts regarding the country's relationship with the Diaspora in general, and specifically the American Jewish community. Seventy-five percent of respondents believe the Minister of Diaspora Affairs should be a professional appointment who has experience in the field, and 63% supported a government-led roundtable where representatives of Israel and the communities could discuss issues affecting both sides.

Media Contact

James Fattal, J Cubed Communications
Email: James@JcubedPR.com
Cell: +972.53.628.8755; US: 347.497.6900

About the Ruderman Family Foundation

The Ruderman Family Foundation is an internationally recognized organization, which advocates for the full inclusion of people with disabilities in our society. The Foundation supports effective programs, innovative partnerships and a dynamic approach to philanthropy in advocating for and advancing the inclusion of people with disabilities throughout America.

The Ruderman Family Foundation believes that inclusion and understanding of all people is essential to a fair and flourishing community and promotes these values through its leadership and funding.