



Israel
Religious
Action
Center



Israel Movement for Reform
and Progressive Judaism
התנועה הרפורמית והתקדומת בישראל

Racial Equality in Action

Combating

Racist Incitement

Racist incitement is steadily rising in Israel, giving new strength to racist theories, including the belief that Arab men are predators who seek to trick and ensnare Jewish women. Since police have unequivocally confirmed that there is no such phenomenon, these theories only remain strong due to racist hate groups, such as Lehava and La Familia, or respected public figures, such as Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu. These groups and rabbis encourage fear of assimilation in order to promote their xenophobic messages and exacerbate suspicion and segregation between Jewish and Arab communities in Israel.

Racist incitement is illegal, going against Israel's freedom of speech laws, action must be taken against civil servants, especially rabbis, who use their authority and distort Jewish teaching to incite to racism. IRAC monitors and takes legal action against racist rabbis and hate groups who encourage racism and violence.

Thanks to IRAC:

- Bentzi Gopstein, leader of hate group Lehava, was indicted
- Candidates of Kahanist party, Otzma Yehudit, Michael Ben Ari, Bentzi Gopstein, and Baruch Marzel were disqualified from running for Knesset. They are the only candidates to be disqualified from running for Knesset other than Rabbi Meir Kahane himself.
- Rabbi Yosef Elitzur, whose writings encouraged revenge crimes and "price tag" attacks – violence and property damage as the "price" of the targets' actions – against Palestinians, was indicted.
- Rabbi Shmuel Eliyahu, Chief Rabbi of Safed and Rabbinic Judge, must undergo disciplinary proceedings.

