

FATHERS 4 JUSTICE ISRAEL

Report to the 66th Session of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, (To Be Held on October 2-3, 2019) Regarding Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – ICESCR in Israel Pursuant to Israel's Fourth Periodic Report

Fathers for Justice, Israel ("Avot LeMaan Tzedek") is registered as a non-profit charity in Israel, and is listed with the UN as a civil society. We appreciate the opportunity to report the following.

1. In order to understand why the State of Israel defies the rights of the covenant, one needs to take a look at the Israeli judiciary, which is where the citizens may invoke their economic and social rights. The Israeli judiciary is very sensitive to its reputation. In fact, in 2015 the judiciary created a "reputation committee" headed by the president of the Supreme Court and heads of the law enforcement.

2. The Israeli Administration of the Courts created a team of lawyers and prosecutors in charge of maintaining a database of citizens expressing criticism of judges and documenting the expression. Retaliation against the writers was immediate. In some cases, they filed police complaints against citizens, reporters and lawyers, based on peculiar "insulting a state employee" criminal charges. They also forced Google and Facebook into cooperating with them by taking down all derogatory comments about judges from the internet, and divulging citizens personal details. Judges were notified who write about them in social media, so that they can retaliate via their judicial discretion. All this was supervised and encouraged by the president of the supreme Court, **Esther Hayut**.

3. One wonders why would a judiciary of a country that prides itself as the only democracy in the middle east take such draconian measures to eliminate all criticism? The answer lies with the fact that Israeli judiciary behaves like a junta, a nepotistic group of privileged people, whose only concern is self-glorification and money.

4. Once in a while the Israeli Judiciary releases a nice judgment which can be used as a flag to others their purported high moral stand, but in tens of thousands of other cases, the judges manifest total ignorance of human rights, no respect to litigants and their hardships, and the last thing that concerns Israeli judges is the obligations officially taken by the state when it signed UN conventions.

5. This is the sad background as to why this committee is so important, so as to put a mirror in the face of a judicial system that is so corrupt at its core.

6. At the outset of the List of Questions in relation to the 4th Periodic Report, the committee in paragraph 4 calls on the State of Israel to set forth what steps were taken to establish a **national human rights institution**.

7. The answer is that Israel took no such steps, and even if it undertakes to do so promptly, chances are that the Israeli human rights institution, ombudsman or grievance

committee, whatever shape it will take, it will be devoid of any relevance or power. It is likely that, as always, a non-independent puppet will be appointed to wash away all the dirt.

8. It is customary in Israel to appoint to such positions puppets or "Yes Men" from within the corrupt core of the body being supervised, so that they placate the complaints, brush them aside and attack the complainant using shaming and smear methods, which are ingrained in the Israeli judicial DNA.

9. There is really nowhere to complain in Israel. Although positions such as an ombudsman for judicial review and ombudsman for prosecutor misconduct do exist, the state fills them with former judges who are most notorious for committing the same misconduct and same injustices that they are appointed to "review".

10. For example, the **Ombudsman for Judicial Misconduct**, retired Supreme Court judge **Uri Shoham** never acquitted one person in his life. On his last day in the supreme Court he wrote his only acquittal decision, while the defendant (Mr. Elisha Haibatov) was still in jail for 12 years, he held off the publication of the decision and the release of the prisoner by 3 months to coincide with the ceremony of his appointment as Ombudsman.

11. The same goes for **David Rozen**, the **Ombudsman for Prosecutor Misconduct**. During his tenure as a District Court judge, he was no different than all other judges who ignore any and all defendants' rights for the sake of "searching for the truth".

12. Israel boasts a 99% conviction rate, because Israeli judges routinely validate inadmissible evidence, routinely validate confessions obtained through coercion and psychological torture, routinely validate search and seizure warrants obtained via police deceit and lies to the Court, and they routinely deny the defendant's applications to receive all the investigation materials. Judge Rozen still thinks, even as an ombudsman that there is nothing wrong with that.

13. For the position of **Ombudsman for Children in Outplacement facilities** complaint mechanism, a social worker named **Simona Shteinmetz**, who was sued by Israeli American parents in the USA for crimes against humanity.

14. While she was chief social worker for divorce, she promoted ideas of an Australian researcher than men's brains do not communicate well with toddlers and therefore are inferior or unfit parents.

15. There is no mechanism for complaining against social workers who are appointed by the judges to decide who the better parent is. In fact, the officers of the state enjoy full immunity and they can't be sued in tort, negligence, intentional misrepresentation to Court or otherwise (See Section 7A, Tort Ordinance of 1968).

16. Almost every father in a divorce situation complains that the social worker appointed by the family court to write a social report (a Taskir) and choose who the better parent is, are almost always predisposed in favor of the mothers, and they fill up the Taskir with unsubstantiated allegations invented by the women, shaming the man and trashing him with hearsay, rumors, intuitions and visions inventions.

17. Because judges treat the Taskir as a draft for the judgment, and they routinely rubber-stamp it, men routinely lose custody of the children, and in many cases also the visitation rights.

18. As to Issue 5 under "General Information" the Committee is asking the State of Israel about **engagement of civil societies in preparation of the 4th Report**. We note that not only was there no engagement, on the contrary, there was active persecution and massive man hunt to crush and silence the few civil societies who dare to voice their objections.

19. In order to deter Israeli citizens from physically travelling to Geneva, Chief member of the heads delegation of Israel, Ms. **Hila Tene Gilad**, who heads the international department at the Ministry of Justice filed a false report at the Tel Aviv police against reporter Lori Shem-Tov. Tene Gilad accused Shem-Tov of escaping Israel with a forged passport in 2011 and 2014 to appear at the UN, and that during those sessions, Shem-Tov harassed her.

20. However, reporter Lori Shem-Tov never left the State of Israel, and never set foot in Geneva. Tel Aviv police issued subpoenas to airlines and Ben Gurion airport to obtain lists of passengers to Geneva, and raided Shem-Tov's home in search of the alleged fake passport. These investigations yielded nothing as this was an entirely false complaint.

21. Also worth mentioning that Tel Aviv police asked the President of Tel Aviv District Court for an *ex parte* order allowing them to enter Shem-Tov's home saliently and place spyware on her computer to monitor her internet traffic. Shem-Tov was arrested on February 27, 2017 and spent two years and 3 months in prison pending trial, (mostly in solitary confinement), with a judge of the Supreme Court affirming the pre-trial imprisonment by referring to biblical references of a woman who seduced men and then stabbed them.

22. Judge **Noam Solberg** said that "the keyboard" is equal to a hot weapon and damaging the good names of employees of the State of Israel is equal to murder in cold blood. This was the justification to expand the grounds for pre-trial arrest from risk to cause severe boldily injury (during the release on bail) to potential for bad mouthing public officials, which is now a reason to deny release on bail.

23. This has been repeated by the district court judge **Avraham Hyman** who ordered her arrest with no bond until the end of trial stating that criticism, of Israeli judges can only derive from an "Ideology of Evil".

24. In addition to Shem-Tov, another journalist and a lawyer were arrested for 10 months and then spent almost 2 years in house arrest, forbidden from any access to the internet. The Attorney General, Shai Nitzan, has issued a Certificate of Evidence Immunity based on an unspecified "important national interest". The result is that much of the evidence collected against Shem Tov is withheld' including all the products of the spyware installed in her house.

25. Lori Shem Tov and her web sites were indeed the only source in Israel that exposed by names judicial corruption and judicial injustice and was the only reliable source of information for parents to learn what the future holds for them. No less than 24 judges have launched police complaints against Shem Tov. The Judge assigned to the case, **Benny**

Sagi (14615-04-17) issued a gag order on the names of the 24 insulted judges and ordered the trial to be held in closed doors, and in addition, the Judges are exempt from testifying about how they were insulted.

26. But that is just one case that focuses on the activists in the area of welfare, social right and right to family life. Activists in the area of banking predatory prices were also arrested, indicted on trumped up charges, and the lawyer **Barak Cohen** heading the group was suspended from the practice of law.

27. Other protests such as those of the Ethiopian immigrants for police brutality, were met with even more police brutality and more arrests.

28. In addition, in December 2016 one of the Prosecutors in charge of enforcing the recommendations of the Judicial Reputation Committee, **Dina Dominitz**, wrote an article "Free Speech or Hate Speech" where she describes the efforts made by the State to tag activists who come to Geneva as "cyber terrorists", and that the State doesn't like it when its own citizens disparage it overseas. She describes there the harsh measures the State was preparing for activists, including indictments as an organized crime and anti-terrorism laws, public relations and diplomatic efforts.

29. **Re: efforts to reduce poverty**, Paragraph 8 in Section II, pertaining to. Men in divorce are most likely to fall into poverty, along with their children from a second wife, if they remarry, for all the reasons described above. Oddly, single mothers in financial troubles know well never to ask the welfare for help, because the State does not help financially. Instead, the social worker will remove the children into foster care or an outplacement facility. In fact, all the poor persons in Israel stay away from the social services, because making an application for any kind of benefits there can result in very devastating consequences.

30. **Re: corruption, transparency and accountability**, paragraph 10 in Section II. Any sort of corruption involving the Judiciary (and prosecution) is quickly washed away.

31. We will give some examples: Around February 2018 a story broke out that a former District court judge was approached by a politician and offered the job of the attorney General, if she promises to close an investigation that the wife of the prime Minister, Sara Netanyahu, ordered foods from chefs in restaurants outside the budget. The other Judge Ms. Gestel) shared the information privately with **Esther Hayut**, the Chief Justice, who is her best friend. Hayut did not report this bribe offer to the police. Nothing happened and this scandal was quickly eliminated from public discussion.

32. Also in February 2018, a story broke out that **Judge Ronit Poznanski** in Tel Aviv used to coordinate with the police applications of the police to arrest people for investigation purposes. The police prosecutor would SMS to her how many days to keep the person in jail. And she promised to look surprised at the hearing itself. This means that all her arrest hearings were rigged and stitched in advance.

33. Judge Poznanski used to receive policemen at her house and sign any arrest order or orders to third parties to supply information to the police, without blinking an eye. She was brought before the Disciplinary Court for judges and found guilty. The Disciplinary court said

her courtroom became a circus. Judge Poznanski petitioned the Supreme Court against the disciplinary court and argued that basically all judges do the same. The Supreme Court decided to restore her position as a Judge, saying the ex parte communications with the police were "minor glitches".

34. In January 2019, another story broke out that the head of the Israel bar, Efi Naveh was obtaining sexual favors from women and promoting them to become judges. This was called the "sex for Appointments" scandal. One Judge, Rafi Aranya, even sent his wife to perform sexual favors on Efi Naveh, so that Naveh votes at the Judicial appointments Committee to promote him to the District Court. A gag order was placed on the investigation and the names of the Judges involved. Oddly, Lori Shem Tov who reported the scandal was hit with an indictment of sexually molesting Judge Rafi Aranya, by describing the scenario that involved the sexual favors of his wife to Mr. Naveh.

35. A commitment to transparency requires being candid with the public. Instead in Israel, every scandal is immediately followed by a gag order, forbidding the oppress to report, and preventing the public from knowing what really goes.

36. We also note that every government agency has an officer in charge of freedom of information, but once again, in Israel the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) has become mockery of its name. Almost every such application is met with either two objections, wither that the application requires human resources which the agency does not have, or that the disclosure would violate the privacy of the same persons whose conduct needs to be exposed.

37. Because these FOIA officers know that to appeal their decision will require a 2,000 NIS (\$570) court fee and the procure will take a minimum of 6- to 9 months or more, with minimal chances of succeeding, almost nobody is able to obtain information and statistics from the State.

38. The Committee should recommend to the State to waive the Court fees for filing FOIA petitions and amend the law so as to remove the exceptions that make it impossible to obtain information from the state agencies.

39. As to accountability, the State encourages zero accountability of its public officers. All of them are immune from any tort claim. Judges and the Judiciary enjoy full immunity. People who are falsely arrested do need receive any compensation for the traumatic arrest. Policemen who lie when making applications to court, never get sanctioned and the inadmissible evidence is almost always validate one way or another. Policemen and prosecutors who fail are rewarded with promotions.

40. In short, Israeli civil service officers conduct themselves under the theory that the government is always right, and the citizen is always wrong.

41. When a civil servant is sued, the State steps in instead of him as a defendant, so it is possible to sue the State for the wrongdoing, however the courts usually apply a "Presumption of Regularity and dismiss the case with no compensation. When a Judge is sued, the immunity covers the State as well, and the case is dismissed right away.

42. The Committee should recommend to the State to avoid using the Presumption of Regularity, and to equate judges with other civil servants, so that the state assumes liability for judicial misconduct.

43. The Committee should also recommend to the State to abolish **Section 24 of the Juvenile Law** which forbids parents from talking about their own tragedies with the social services in public with names and photographic evidence, and it also forbids them from being interviewed by the press in full face and full name, under the penalty of a criminal indictment.

44. **Re: gender pay gap**, paragraph 18 (a) in Section III, there isn't really a gender pay gap in Israel. Women work fewer hours per month. All jobs in Israel are paid the same way regardless of gender. If women were earning less, that would have been an incentive to only hire women.

45. Often this gender pay gap (which exists in all Western societies) is cited as an excuse why all women should never pay or contribute to child support of their own children.

46. **Re: right to social security**, paragraph 21 in Section III. It is important to stress the right to keep the social security benefits, since the very little that is paid, can be garnished right away. It is true that the levels of social security are very low and insufficient to sustain a living. Income Guaranty Support for a single person is roughly 1,600 NIS (\$450) per month.

47. However, the cost of the lowest and most miserable condition studio apartment rental is no less than 2,000 NIS (\$570). It is unfathomable how it is possible to buy food with such benefits.

48. Divorced men can be affected from another aspect of the law: the fact that these benefits are not exempt from debt garnishment and child support garnishment. Even men who are crippled and in wheelchairs can see their disability benefits garnished in full towards unpaid child support (which is assessed as if they are able to work as under a presumed income theory), leaving them with absolutely no social security assistance, and escalating debts.

49. **Re: protection of the family and children**, to paragraph 22 (a) and (d) of Section III pertaining to Art. 10 of the Covenant:

a. Defying any and all UN Conventions, Israeli judges stubbornly say that it is legal to discriminate against men and in favor of women, especially in divorce, but practically everywhere else in courts, including criminal courts. The laws themselves are outright discriminatory. The Committee should declare that **Section 25 of Israel's Guardian and Capacity Law** that discriminates against men and directs courts to award custody to mothers (the Tender Years Presumption") in a flagrant violation of international law. It deprives fathers of their parenthood and creates a havoc in divorce law.

b. Each time a challenge to this Section 25 came before Israel's Supreme Court, it refused to strike it down on the theory that only the Knesset can change the law.

c. In any other area of the law when the supreme Court finds a statute to be archaic or discriminatory, the Judges find a way to interpret the law "in light of modern times" or the

principles of equity. But when it comes to fathers all 15 Supreme Court Judges are of the opinion that there is nothing wrong with some discrimination, because men are members of the "patriarchy", and the Supreme Court sees itself as a champion of a phantom fight against the phantom patriarchy.

d. Women always get custody of the children because of the Tender Years Presumption. Not only that they are given veto powers to decide how much visitations the fathers will get. They are also given the power to terminate all visitations simply by filing a false complaint (with zero legal repercussions). In that case the fathers' time with children will be suspended, or he will be sent to a "contact Center".

e. In 2006, the State did establish a Committee to examine the Tender Years Presumption. After 8 years of deliberation that committee (**the Schnit Committee**) said that it violates the Convention of the Rights of the Child, that the presumption was abolished everywhere but Israel, and that children will benefit from joint or equal custody. Bills to change the law accordingly have been drafted, and have been promoted by some Knesset members, but it was sabotaged by the Ministry of Justice and by radical feminist groups.

f. In 2017, our NGO, Abot LeMaan Tzedek (Fathers for Justice) filed an administrative petition with the Supreme Court, **Bagatz 2511/17** against the state and the Ministry of Justice (represented by Ms. Emy Palmor who came to Geneva many times to defend Israel before UN Committees).

g. The Petition asked the supreme Court "to put an end to the de-humanization of Jewish men", and to "stop the SOAH perpetrated by the State of Israel against Jewish fathers and their children".

h. Three Judges (**Anat Baron, Uri Shoham and Yoram Danziger**) dismissed the Petition without a hearing claiming that there is no basis for the allegations, that the practices complained of are well established for many years and there is no proof that they cause injustice, that there is no solid foundation for the claim that State employees (including judges and social workers) are "committing any crimes".

i. Judge Anat Baron verbally attacked the fathers who filed affidavits, shamed them that the only reason they petition the court is to improve their position in the family court, and to top it off she threatened that in case of any other petition in the future, the Supreme Court will impose stiff financial penalties on the NGO and the affiants. Decision dated November 8, 2017).

j. **Re: Child support:** Ancient Jewish law says that Women are exempt from sharing in the child maintenance. Women are even exempt from paying child support in very rare cases where fathers get custody, and they are still entitled to collect child support even though they are non-custodians.

k. The feminist organizations that claim that Jewish law is not in their favor, have no problem with Jewish Law when it comes to child support, because it is totally in their favor.

l. Child support rates are the highest in the world and 2-3 times higher than in the EU. The child support (an average of \$500 per child) does not stop even when the man is sick, incapacitated, in comma or in jail.

m. When we said that rarely the Supreme Court throws a bone for public relation purposes, we mean **Appeal 919/15**. In that appeal a father in joint custody was ordered to pay full child support when both parents' income is the same. He managed to pay all the appeal bonds and reached the Supreme Court.

n. In that case the Court ruled the principles of equality dictate that when the income is the same and the time with the child is the same, then the father will be exempt from paying child support, but only as to children age 6 or more.

o. On its face this creates discrimination between children younger than 6, and those older than 6. The Supreme Court did not say if this can be used by fathers in cases that were already finished before the publication of the 919/15 judgment.

p. Most family courts take the position that in the interest of not flooding the court with applications, those with judgment from before 919/15, will have to learn to live with them as is. Also, as result, courts distribute custody 55% to the woman-45% to the man (and even 52%-48%), i.e. one night short of 50%-50%, and thus keep awarding women full child support as before, as if the Supreme Court never said a thing.

q. To add insult to injury, in Appeal 919/15, after 119 pages in the concluding remarks the Judges wrote that the new ruling is not mandatory at all, and that any lower court "may deviate" from it as it pleases, and that it any lower court may exercise its own discretion if it doesn't want to follow 919/15. In other words, the Supreme Court made a precedent extending 119 pages long, but in its final words poke a hole in the entire precedent' leaving the lower courts, and the public, in total chaos. Ironically, the judges of Israel still think that they are respected and appreciated among the enlightened nations of the world...

r. **Re: exemption from prosecution for false claims:** Women are allowed and encouraged to file false domestic violence complaints, false allegations of rape and even false accusations of sexual child molestation. There are no repercussions when women lie under oath in Israel, because **Regulation 2.5** exempts Israeli women from prosecution for false police reports.

s. This Regulation was drafted by former Supreme Court Judge **Edna Arbel**¹, a self proclaimed radical feminist. While in March 2016 former Minister of Justice Ayelet Shaked introduced some cosmetic changed to Reg. 2.5, in reality nothing has changed.

t. The State discriminates even among children. Children of the first wife get all the father's income. Children of the second wife are left to starve. The entire salary can be

¹ It was recently discovered that the administration of the Court created a Committee of two former Judges ("**Vaadat HaShtaim**"), Edna Arbel and another one, whose function is to screen out judicial candidates and judges seeking promotion based on the quality of their writing. Naturally, all judges who seek promotion must write in conformity with the Edna Arbel ideology, as she was basically given a secret veto power over candidates. A petition to the Supreme court to reveal and expose this secret "Committee of Two"" was denied, as not in the interest of the public to know. **Bagatz 414/18**.

garnished for child support of the children from the first wife! When the man's entire salary is not enough to cover the child support payments (and it oftentimes is not) he can be arrested and imprisoned so frequently that none of the children from either marriage can have a meaningful relationship with their father.

u. While women get automatic custody, men must wait for a social worker to write a "Taskir" about them. If a father wants visitations or joint custody against the will of the mother, he must wait for a social report that can take months in a waiting list. The social workers are trained by radical feminist organizations. Routinely social workers send the men to be "diagnosed".

v. Usually, that man must pay \$8,000 for psycho-diagnostic parental fitness test. This is both unnecessary and exorbitant.

w. Every city has at least one supervised visitation center, a "**Contact Center**". Many men see their children once a week for 1 hour only. Over 25% of the men are sent to a contact center. By contrast the US the rate is 1% or lower. In Australia 2-3%. Most fathers simply give up.

x. The mere existence of a child support obligation (even if there is no debt) is considered automatic grounds for issuing a **no exit order** preventing fathers from traveling outside Israel.

y. It is very easy to be convicted for domestic violence even if there is zero evidence against that man. A **conviction for family violence** can be made with no evidence whatsoever, and no witnesses whatsoever, based solely on the "say-so" allegation of the woman. The conviction rate is 99.9% even when father can prove their innocence. That means that the judges are pro-prosecution, and that no due process is observed in Israel.

z. **Parental Alienation ("PAS") rates** are probably the highest in the world. The one most affected by PAS are fathers who are cut off from their own children.

aa. The annual budget for the Israeli Ministry of Welfare is eight times higher per capita than New York City. This incentivizes Israeli social workers to trump up unnecessary family crisis.

bb. **Re: no exit orders.** Those fathers who are left without a home, no access to the children and no chance to earn a living (due to 100% wage garnishment), their only other option, other than suicide could be taking that plane to Rwanda together with the African Refugees, and start a new life. However, the state does not recognize this right to leave, and under no conditions will release the no exit order, preferring the man to just die anonymously, and become another statistic of the casualties of Israel's gender wars. We ask that the UN step in and assist those on the verge of taking their own lives to emigrate elsewhere.

50. **Re: sanctions for Get (Jewish Divorce Deed) Refusal**, paragraph 22 (b) of Section III, it should be noted that there are more women who refuse Gets than men. In the past 5 years 427 women refused accepting the Get, and 382 men refused giving the Get. The reason for this is that women are entitled to collect monthly alimony from the man until the

final Get ceremony. This creates a financial incentive for recalcitrant women to delay the Get as much as possible.

51. On the other hand, since the Get shenanigan is a derivative of applying Jewish law, men are faced with another financial hardship which is the **Ketubah**.

52. Ketubah is the marriage contract exchanged at the wedding together with the ring. It is customary that the man announces a sum of money with which he is buying the services of the woman as a wife.

53. Most young couples see it as symbolic only, and they can sign a Ketubah of a million shekels or more. The average figure is around 200,000 NIS (\$60,000). Oddly at the time of divorce, women suddenly remember that they are entitled to collect the Ketubah as well.

54. This creates enormous amount of litigation as there are intricate sets of exemptions from payment (most notably in case of proven betrayal supported by video evidence).

55. Statistically, 69 men were thrown in jail in the past 5 years to coerce the giving of the Get, while 0 women were hit with this kind of sanction. In the past 2 years, Rabbinical Courts have ordered members of the immediate family (such as the father of the man) to be thrown in jail as hostage to compel the son to give a divorce.

56. This was applied to an American citizen and resident who came to Israel as a tourist and was in thrown in jail for several months.

57. The Committee should not induce Israel to raise the bar and impose stiffer sanctions, because that actually endorses the continued application of religious law. Instead the state should answer why it is not offering its people civil marriages and civil divorces.

58. As to paragraph 22 (b) of Section III pertaining to **removal of children by state social workers** ("CPS") from custody of parents into outplacement facilities, the level of contact with the children, and the restrictions on such contact are appalling (hardly any contact, if at all). The children are subjected to compulsive psychotherapy designed to teach them to abandon their biological parents and to emotionally identify themselves with the new home. The dispensation of Ritalin and other drugs is all too common.

59. What is troubling is the legal procedures that are designed to defeat the parents before they can raise a defense. Lawyers are not allowed in the "treatment and assessment" committees with the parents, where the social workers decide on child removal. At the Juvenile Court which is where the social workers launch their petitions, the parents are forbidden from cross examining the social worker (who is the adversary), and from calling witnesses in their defense.

60. That is pursuant to a ruling of Supreme Court judge **Itzhak Amit** in **Bagatz 4746/13**. In that case Judge Amit said, "the social worker is the extended arm of the judge", and therefore cannot be put into questioning. These social workers are immune from any lawsuit whatsoever.

61. What is troubling in that respect is that when a social worker finds that a mother is unfit to raise the children, instead of the children handed over to the father, they will be put into a shelter at a cost of 17,000 NIS (\$5,000) per month per child.

62. The committee should ask Israel how Judge Amit's Bagatz 4746/13 comports with international law, the right to life and fair trial, and why fathers are not considered an option for custody before children are removed to a shelter.

63. **Re: mitigate the negative impact of privatization of social services**, paragraph 23 (b) of Section III, we note that it would be impossible to ask the state to do so because these private social services are populated by retired state social workers. Thus, it is in the interest of social workers on state payroll to provide work for their colleagues, knowing that one day when they retire, they will join these private social services, or form new ones. The lucrative money in the private sector after civil service will always be there.

64. Therefore, in Israel there is not much difference between social services in civil service and private ones, because it is the same social workers that populate both.

65. It should be noted that the state spends 9.5 Billion NIS (\$2.7 Billion) on the Ministry of Welfare, but none of it goes to the people in need. It is spent on salaries for more and more social workers and building shining new offices for the welfare, even though no one wants to visit these offices for fear they will get blacklisted or targeted for child kidnapping.

66. **Re: increased rate of suicide**, paragraph 28 (g) of Section III, we note that men in divorce or divorce proceedings are most at risk and are the biggest group suffering from the phenomenon. For decades the Ministry of Health has been hiding the actual numbers and the raw data under hard to understand graphs, and incomprehensible equations. No real or meaningful research has ever been made to determine the reasons why men commit suicide.

67. A state effort to finance a committee to fight suicide has turned out to be a mockery. They offered more forced hospitalizations, more dispensation of psychiatric drugs, and more training to professionals. All that will never solve the core problem, the inability to continue living when all of a father's assets and income are taken away, no minimum, security cushion is left for basic subsistence, he is hunted by police or thrown to jail repeatedly based on false claims, and does not see his children. For these people, drugs or counseling and therapy will not work.

68. We will now try to address some of the questions that came up in the Pre-Session in March 2019:

69. **Why are the fathers' rights NGOs coming to the UN for 8 years already to the UN committee for Economic Social and Cultural Rights?**

70. We are here because the State of Israel perpetrates a gender apartheid against men. All institutions of the State, with the Supreme Court at its head, collaborate to violate human rights that the fathers are supposed to have. Nobody listens in Israel and those who voice criticism, go out to demonstrations or expose judicial corruption, are hunted down like animals, and thrown in jail.

71. Why are all these horrible things happening in Israel?

a. Women's organizations (e.g. WIZO) have always been strong in Israel. At the beginning of the State they started building kindergartens and children facilities to house refugees from the Holocaust supported by donations from US Jews. Over the years they adopted a cult like ideology of men- bashing and radical feminism to gain power and more money.

b. In the early years WIZO engaged in trafficking of children by kidnapping children of immigrants from Yemen and other "primitive" countries and selling them to wealthy childless Jews from the USA. Today, they continue the "tradition" of child kidnapping, only this time into their own facilities, where they charge the State \$5,000 per child per month in a "child shelter".

c. The judicial junta in Israel is so corrupt, it now uses "empowering women" slogans, because of all the money and power concentrated by women's organizations. Judges know that any decision against the feminist cult will result in massive shaming campaigns that will damage their reputation.

d. The chief Supreme Court judge Esther Hayut prefers to cite radical feminists' essays, such as those of foreign Catharine McKinnon and Andrea Dworkin (e.g. "all men are slime") to justify the discrimination over Israeli and international researchers who conducted objective research about family rights and equality rights.

72. Can one appeal an unfair decision in Israel?

a. Not really. Although these procures exists, they are exercises in futility and chances are that the male appellant will get a decision shaming him and trashing him with his name on it.

b. The costs of appeals are exorbitant. Bonding a family appeal is about \$5,000.

c. Courts invoke a rule that they do not review errors of fact, and one cannot really argue errors in law, because all the laws are bent in favor of women.

73. What does it feel like living in such a state?

a. Many fathers and men in Israel feel like their state betrays them. Many say that it feels like a second Holocaust... that the State of Israel perpetrates crimes against humanity on the ramps of the family court, and it hides all evidence with gag order and "no publicity" orders.

b. The rate of suicide among divorced men and men in proceedings of divorce continues to escalate. Men account for 75% of the suicides in Israel. Data from the Central Bureau of Statistics shows that divorced fathers were the highest at-risk group for suicide – higher than the three following groups combined.

c. The Administration of the Courts is paying a cyber monitoring company to compile reports of everything written about judges in social media. A "Judicial Reputation Database" generates reports that are sent to the judges themselves with the names of the writers. In many cases they file police complaint for "insulting a "public officer".

d. People feel helpless because they can't even express emotions on Facebook for fear of being prosecuted or sued for violating the privacy of the wife.

74. **What do we want from the UN?**

- a. Put a mirror in the face of a brutal and ruthless judiciary.
- b. Issue recommendations as to the illegality of the Tender Years Presumption and placing child support burdens on mem only.
- c. Declare the illegality of discriminatory practices and hold Israel accountable to stop human rights abuses against its own citizens.
- d. Send rapporteurs to Israel.
- e. Address individual complaints diplomatically.
- f. Protection for social activists facing trials for speech and insulting judges.
- g. Help find host countries for men seeking the escape the Israel inferno and start a new life.
- h. Admonish Israel for its liberal use of no exist orders and declare this practice contrary to international human rights.
- i. Pressure Israel to investigate the suicides of 1,400 fathers in the past 5 years, and lift immunity so that the surviving children can sue the State.

Dated: September 23, 2019
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Avot LeMaan Tzedek-Fathers 4 Justice Israel