

# The Knesset

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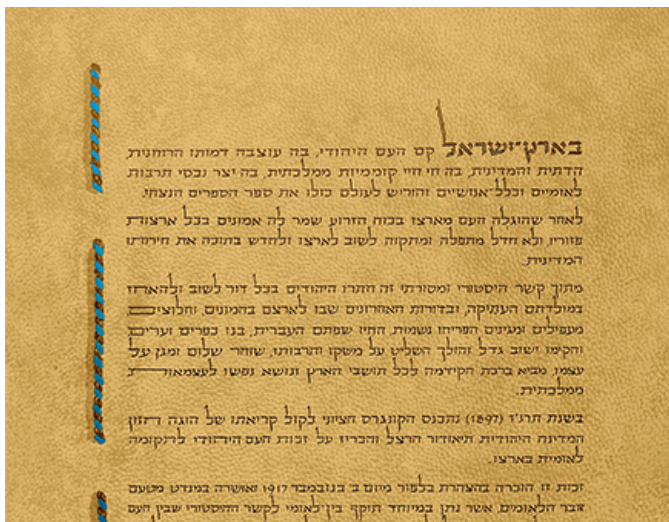
## Declaration of Independence



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## Declaration of Independence

Provisional Government of Israel  
Official Gazette: Number 1; Tel Aviv,  
5 Iyar 5708, 14.5.1948 Page 1



ERETZ-ISRAEL [(Hebrew) - the Land of Israel] was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration of their political freedom.

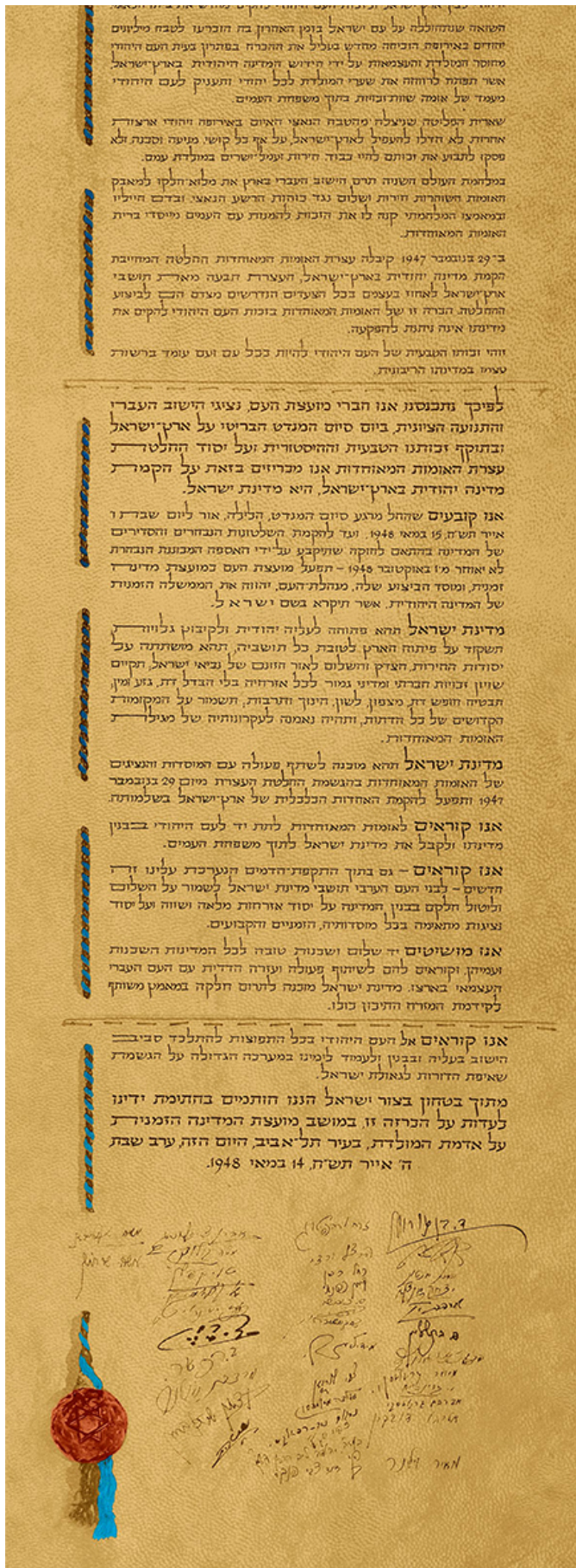
Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jew strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decade returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim [(Hebrew) - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restricti legislation] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, re the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and crea thriving community controlling its own economy and cult loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, an aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zio Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jew people to national rebirth in its own country.

This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of t 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish pe to rebuild its National Home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish people massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another cl demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of i homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jew State, which would open the gates of the homeland wid every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the statu fully privileged member of the comity of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Je from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Er Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and danger: never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, free and honest toil in their national homeland.



In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among th

peoples who founded the United Nations.

On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in the own sovereign State.

ACCORDINGLY WE, MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNCIL, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL AND OF THE ZIONIST MOVEMENT, ARE HERE ASSEMBLED ON THE OF THE TERMINATION OF THE BRITISH MANDATE OVER ERETZ-ISRAEL AND, BY VIRTUE OF OUR NATURAL AND HISTORIC RIGHT AND ON THE STRENGTH OF THE RESOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, HEREBY DECLARE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JEWISH STATE IN EI ISRAEL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

WE DECLARE that, with effect from the moment of the termination of the Mandate being tonight, the eve of Sabbath, the 6th Iyar, 5708 (15th May, 1948), until the establishment of the elected, regular authorities of the State in accordance with the Constitution which shall be adopted by the Elected Constituent Assembly not later than the 1st October 1948, the People's Council shall act as a Provisional Council of State, and its executive organ, the People's Administration, shall be the Provisional Government of the Jewish State, to be called "Is

THE STATE OF ISRAEL will be open for Jewish immigration and for the Ingathering of the Exiles; it will foster development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace envisaged by the prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of Charter of the United Nations.

THE STATE OF ISRAEL is prepared to cooperate with the agencies and representatives of the United Nations implementing the resolution of the General Assembly of the 29th November, 1947, and will take steps to bring about the economic union of the whole of Eretz-Israel.

WE APPEAL to the United Nations to assist the Jewish people in the building-up of its State and to receive the State of Israel into the comity of nations.

WE APPEAL - in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months - to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

WE EXTEND our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish people settling its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

WE APPEAL to the Jewish people throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Israel in the tasks of immigration and upbuilding and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream of redemption of Israel.

PLACING OUR TRUST IN THE "ROCK OF ISRAEL," WE AFFIX OUR SIGNATURES TO THIS PROCLAMATION AT THIS SESSION OF THE PROVISIONAL COUNCIL OF STATE, ON THE SOIL OF THE HOMELAND, IN THE CITY OF TEL-AVIV, ON THIS SABBATH EVE, THE 5TH DAY OF IYAR, 5708 (14TH MAY, 1948).

David Ben-Gurion  
David Zvi Pinkas  
Aharon Zisling  
Moshe Kolodny  
Eliezer Kaplan  
Abraham Katznelson  
Felix Rosenblueth  
David Remez  
Berl Repetur  
Mordekhai Shattner  
Ben Zion Sternberg  
Bekhor Shitreet  
Moshe Shapira  
Moshe Shertok

Rachel Cohen  
Rabbi Kalman Kahana  
Saadia Kobashi  
Rabbi Yitzchak Meir Levin  
Meir David Loewenstein  
Zvi Luria  
Golda Myerson  
Nachum Nir  
Zvi Segal  
Rabbi Yehuda Leib Hacohen Fishman

Daniel Auster  
Mordekhai Bentov  
Yitzchak Ben Zvi  
Eliyahu Berligne  
Fritz Bernstein  
Rabbi Wolf Gold  
Meir Grabovsky  
Yitzchak Gruenbaum  
Dr. Abraham Granovsky  
Eliyahu Dobkin  
Meir Wilner-Kovner  
Zerach Wahrhaftig  
Herzl Vardi



David Ben-Gurion signs Declaration of Independence during a ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum. Sitting beside him: Rabbi Yehuda Leib Maimon, May 14, 1948. Photo: Hans Pinn, GPO



Moshe Sharett, Haim-Moshe Shapira and David Ben-Gurion during the signing of the Declaration of Independence at the Tel Aviv Museum, May 14, 1948. Photo: Hans Pinn, GPO



Golda Meir and David Ben-Gurion during the signing of the Declaration of Independence at the Tel Aviv Museum, May 14, 1948. Photo: Frank Scherschel, GPO



Moshe Sharett signs Declaration of Independence during ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum, May 14, 1948. Photo: Frank Scherschel, GPO



Large crowd gathers outside the Tel Aviv Museum in expectation of the declaration of the State of Israel's independence, May 14, 1948. Photo: Frank Scherschel, GPO



Israel chief rabbis, Rabbi Ben-Zion Meir Hai Uziel and Rabbi Yitzhak HaLevi Herzog, during the Declaration of Independence ceremony at the Tel Aviv Museum, May 5, 1948. Photo: Hans Pinn, GPO



Invitation to the Declaration of Independence ceremony, sent out by the provisional government (Minhelet Ha'am)

National Anthem

Independence Day