

## Who we are

We are a group of professionals, activists, and scholars of varying Israeli backgrounds. In March of 2023 we started a strenuous and thoughtful process of learning and listening amongst ourselves. We consulted with experts and intellectuals in Israel and abroad, studied historical as well as current models of constitution writing around the world – both successful and failed – and conducted extensive discussions about the potential applications of such efforts to Israel.

This is an independent, voluntary project, that has not been commissioned or sponsored by any business, government body, or institution.

**Prof. Netta Barak-Corren** is a Professor of Law at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and a member of the Federmann Center for the Study of Rationality. Her research focuses on empirical and behavioral analysis of constitutional and public law, with a particular interest in conflicts of rights and the interaction between law and religion and law and social norms. Most of her research is geared towards developing an empirical approach to constitutional law, and she recently won an ERC Starting Grant to develop this new approach. Prof. Barak-Corren received her LL.B. in Law and B.A. in Cognitive Science from the Hebrew University (Valedictorian and three-time recipient of the Albert Einstein and Rector awards), and then clerked for the Chief Justice of the Israeli Supreme Court, Hon. Dorit Beinisch, and pursued doctoral studies at Harvard, graduating in 2016. In 2022-2023 she was the David R. Greenbaum and Laureine Knight Greenbaum Distinguished Visiting Professor of Law at Chicago Law School, a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, and a Visiting Fellow at Edmund & Lily Safra Center for Ethics in Harvard. She is also a Nootbaar Religious Freedom Fellow at Pepperdine University

School of Law. Starting September 2023, she will be a Law, Ethics, and Public Policy Fellow at Princeton's University Center for Human Values.

Prof. Barak-Corren received research grants from the Israel Science Foundation, Israeli Democracy Institute, Barak Center for Interdisciplinary Legal Research, Cherrick Center for the Study of Zionism, the Minerva Center for Human Rights, the Sinclair Kennedy Fellowship, Harvard Program on Negotiation's Next Generation Grant and Harvard's Interfaculty Initiative on Mind, Brain, and Behavior, among others. Her Research Awards include the S.Z. Cheshin Young Scholar Award for Academic Excellence in Law, the Gorni Prize for an Outstanding Young Scholar in Public Law, the Birk Prize for Excellence in Legal Research, the Howard Raiffa Best Paper Award, the Fisher-Sander Best Paper Award, the Menachem Goldberg Best Paper Award, and Stanford's International Junior Faculty Forum.

**Prof. Hanna Lerner** is the Head of the School of Political Science, Government and International Affairs at Tel Aviv University. Her research explores the intersection between politics in law with particular focus on constitution making in divided societies; international influence on constitution writing; religion and democracy; and the responsibility towards labor rights in global supply chains. She wrote and edited four books: *Making Constitutions in Deeply Divided Societies* (2011); *Global Justice and International Labor Rights* (2017); *Constitution Writing, Religion and Democracy* (2018); *Comparative Constitution Making* (2019). She received her BA in Philosophy and History and MA in Philosophy from Tel Aviv University, and earned her MPhil and PhD in Political Science from Columbia University, New York. She was a visiting scholar at Princeton University, University of Massachusetts, Amherst and convened an international research group on constitutionalism and religion at the Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZIF), Bielefeld

University, Germany. Before joining TAU faculty she was the deputy-director of the School of Educational Leadership at the Mandel Institute in Jerusalem. She also has vast experience as a journalist and radio news editor, and was the founding director of the news department of Radio Darom.

**Dr. Yehuda Maimaran** is a faculty member at the Mandel School for Educational Leadership (as well as a graduate of the program). Previously he was among the founders and leaders of the Tikun Movement for the renewal of society and culture in Israel, and a member of the board at the Public Forum for youth villages, social service boarding schools and foster care in Israel. As CEO of Kol Israel Haverim (Alliance Israélite Universelle) he worked to promote educational excellence in Israel's periphery, and to advance Jewish-Zionist education, emphasizing responsibility, solidarity, and social engagement. In 2014 he won the Flegg Award for promoting understanding, acceptance and cooperation between different segments in the contemporary Jewish world. He also founded the Morasha school network for the deepening of Jewish education and communal engagement, and the Memizrach Shemesh Center for Jewish Social Activism and Leadership, which educates its members according to the values of Sephardic communal Judaism. Previously he was a principal at the primary and junior high school Moreshet in Mevaseret Zion. He holds a B.A. in psychology and philosophy, an M.A. in clinical psychology and a Ph.D. in Jewish education, all of them from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

**Prof. Moshe Halbertal** is professor of Jewish thought and philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and professor of law at New York University (NYU). He is a member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities and of the American Philosophical Society, and has served

as a visiting professor at Harvard Law School, University of Pennsylvania Law School, and Yale Law School. His research and books cover political philosophy, the philosophy of Jewish law, rabbinic literature and medieval Jewish thought. He has participated in drafting the ethical code of conduct for the IDF. His most recent book, *The Birth of Doubt: Confronting Uncertainty in Early Rabbinic Literature*, was published by Brown Judaic Studies (2020).

**Rabbi Yosef Kaminer** is the founder and head of the Institute of Torah Wisdom (מכון חכמת התורה). He graduated from the Maor Yisrael yeshiva in Bnei Brak, affiliated with the Ger Hassidic dynasty, and completed his rabbinical studies at Kollel Beit Yisrael in Jerusalem. At the Institute of Torah Wisdom he initiated the Hamichlol project – an online wiki-based encyclopedia for the haredi public, which makes available for the haredi community the entirety of Hebrew Wikipedia's knowledge after adapting it culturally (the site enjoys over 500k monthly visits). Rabbi Kaminer also started the Shitufta project – an up-to-date haredi learning system, combining a traditional experience of Torah study with 21<sup>st</sup> century skill acquisition. Rabbi Kaminer heads Aspaklaria, a research center developing unique knowledge for spheres of interaction and friction between the haredi and modern worldviews. Aspaklaria specializes in mediation and cultural adaptation, and offer strategic consultation and cultural adaptation services to government ministries, local authorities, cultural institutions, the third sector and business organizations in their interactions within the haredi community. Aspaklaria also provides guidance and cultural adaptation services to leading haredi schools and organizations in their own interactions with the modern world and the larger Israeli society.

**Rabbanit Dr. Tirza Y. Kelman** practices and researches Jewish law. She is a research fellow at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev and a lecturer at Talpiot College of Education. Previously she was a research fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, a post-doctoral fellow at the Selma Stern Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg, and a post-doctoral fellow at the Center for the Study of Conversion and Inter-Religious Encounters at Ben-Gurion University. Her research covers the intersections between the study of Jewish law, history, the history of ideas and legal theory, focusing on halachic literature that originated from the Ottoman Empire in the beginning of modernity, and more specifically on the writings of R. Joseph Karo. In her religious capacity she regularly addresses halachic inquiries as a Yoetzet Halakha, a female Orthodox halachic authority, and has served as director of Nishmat's "Women's Health & Halacha" website since 2007. She has also taught at various religious institutions, among them the Ezra Youth Movement's "Dracheha" educational institute. Over the past twenty years she has been active in multiple contexts in the public sphere, serving, inter alia, as a member of the general assembly at the religious Zionist women's organization Emunah.

**Ms. Ghadir Hani** serves as coordinator for the Arab community at the Acre Center for Community Mediation and Dialogue. She is a leader at joint Jewish-Palestinian grassroots movements Women Wage Peace and Standing Together, manages social projects, and is active in various fields such as tourism, community relations, women empowerment, coexistence, and interfaith dialogue. Winner of the Sami Michael Award (2018) and the Israeli Hope Award (2020) for her work as a social activist, she has been selected as one of "50 social heroes" by *Yedioth Ahronoth* newspaper (2018), and as one of "20 Negev influencers" in the past two decades by local newspaper *Yedioth*

*HaNegev* (2020). She is a graduate of multiple social and leadership training programs: the "Uniqueness and Togetherness" program at Tikun Movement; The Heschel Center for Sustainability fellows program; the Itach-Maaki and WePower's special training program focused on conducting political negotiations from a gender perspective; and an interfaith "vision-building for peace" program, which brings together Muslim and Jewish religious leaders.