

Hi **[First Name]** **[Last Name]**,

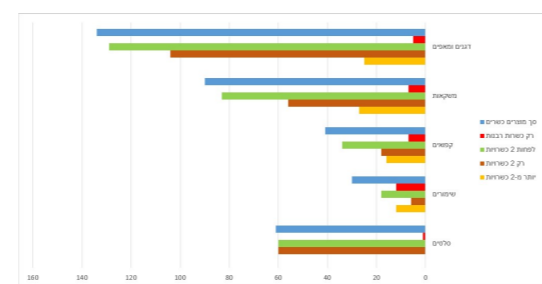
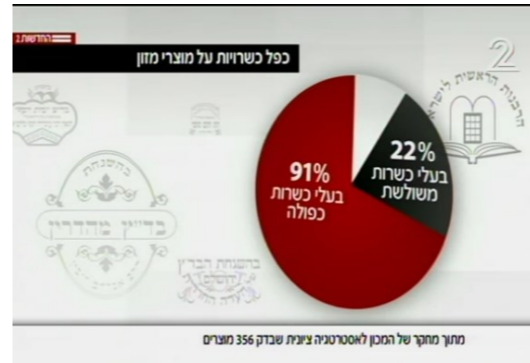
We are pleased to present you with the newsletter for the month of January, which focuses on a new study that was presented to the Knesset's Economic Affairs Committee. The study exposes the level of irrelevancy of the Israeli Rabbinate's *kashrut* supervision system for Israeli products. Also included in this month's newsletter, are numerous articles and reports by members of the Institute, as well as updates concerning the Institute's recent activity.

Enjoy!

A new study: multiple kashrut seals on Israeli food products

A new study conducted by the Institute was presented to the Knesset's Economic Affairs Committee during a discussion concerning the costs of the Rabbinate's kashrut monopoly.

The study, conducted by Josh Cohen, a team member of the Golden Mean Project for the Regulation of Nation, Religion and State Ties, exposes the ineffectiveness of the Rabbinate's kashrut supervision outline when it comes to Israeli products.



The [findings](#) of the study received broad coverage in the media, including a [report](#) by Yair Sharki broadcast on Channel 2 News.

There was also extensive coverage in [TheMarker](#), and on the [Ynet](#), [Mako](#), [Reshet Moreshet](#), [Besheva](#), [nrg](#) and [People Broad Casting](#) websites.

In these reports you will also find more information about the discussion which took place in the Knesset, as well as the MKs' and the Rabbinate's response to the findings of the study. The full study will be published in the near future.

[To view the presentation \(in Hebrew\)](#)

Activities

Miri Shalem, the Intitute's CEO, was [interviewed](#) on Avri Gil'ad and Hila Korach's show – Ha'Olam Ha'Boker (Channel 2) on the topic of ultra-Orthodox and secular conflicts and on the need to maintain coexistence.



Adi Arbel, our project manager, [participated](#) in a discussion held by the Knesset's Constitution, Law and Justice Committee on the issue of disqualifying political parties. During the discussion, the findings of a comparative study recently conducted by the Institute were displayed. The study focuses on numerous approaches to the disqualification of political parties in the Western world, and the mechanisms used to achieve this.

Blue & White Human Rights



Our activity at the checkpoints has aroused curiosity among many groups from Israel and abroad who wish to learn more about the conflict from the field itself. This past month we gave educational tours at the checkpoints to groups of rabbis and religious officials from AIPAC, as well as students from the San Diego University and UCLA.

We also gave lectures to cadets training in Israel's Border Police Officers' Course, to the organizers of Birthright, and to students from the Silicon Valley.

Articles

In articles published by members of the Institute, a variety of current affairs and matters of public concern have been addressed:

English:

- Institute chair, Dr. Yoaz Hendel, [expresses](#) the need to revert to the classical Zionist response: building (Yedioth Ahronoth).
- Yisrael Harel, founding chair of the Institute, [proves](#) that the IDF is the world's most moral army (Haaretz).

Hebrew:

- Miri Shalem, the Institute's CEO, [proposes](#) that an alternative narrative to the "occupation narrative" be created (Makor Rishon).
- Prof. Asher Cohen [analyzes](#) Israeli society's Jewish identity in the past and in the present (BeSheva).
- Adi Arbel met with a number of foreign diplomats and [arrived](#) at some interesting conclusions (Besheva).
- Nave Dromi, director of Blue&White Human Rights, [expresses](#) her criticism of secular coercion (Haaretz).

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