

# ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND IMMIGRATION

Since the mid-1990's, with the advent of economic development and success, Israel has slowly transformed from a state that welcomed immigrant and refugee Jews from around the world into a destination for economic migrants and illegal immigrants, like many other thriving countries. This dramatic shift has far-reaching implications for the country as a whole.

Tens of thousands of illegal immigrants have taken up residence in different neighborhoods, severely compromising the safety and personal security of the area's local Israeli residents and leading to a striking change in demographics. Though the phenomenon has primarily impacted a few specific neighborhoods, it is hardly a localized issue. Failure to address this phenomenon quickly and effectively may change the nature of the entire country beyond recognition.

Aside from illegal immigrants who sneak into the country, Israel must also contend with more than 100,000 illegal residents from dozens of countries who entered as tourists or foreign workers and stayed long after their visas expire. This dubious population exploits every legal loophole, such as submitting fictional requests for asylum and conducting a persistent war of attrition against the state in court.

To further exacerbate matters, even Israel's legal immigration policies are in a state of deep crisis. According to the Israel Central Bureau of Statistics, the number of Israelis who identify as Jewish is in a steady state of decline. This past year, the vast majority of Israel's legal immigrants were not Jewish, a staggering statistic with serious repercussions for the future of the State of Israel as a Jewish state.

The issue at hand is of strategic importance and a top priority for the Religious Zionist Party. In the context of future coalition negotiations, we will demand that concrete steps be taken to address these problems - before the situation becomes irreparable.

## **WHAT WILL WE DO IN THE UPCOMING KNESSET TO STOP ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND SEND ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS BACK TO THEIR COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN?**

- We will establish a special administration under the auspices of the National Security Council and directed by a project manager who will spearhead the government's response to illegal immigration and illegal residents.
- In the context of future coalition negotiations, we will demand that the Population and Immigration Authority be placed under the auspices of a minister from the Religious Zionist Party.
- We will advance legislation to determine a target number of illegal immigrants and illegal residents who will leave the country each year.

## **GENERAL POLICIES TOWARD IMMIGRATION:**

- We will encourage illegal immigrants to leave voluntarily: We will pass the "Override Clause" and immediately afterward we will pass the "Illegal Immigration Prevention Act" which will make it legally possible to hold illegal immigrants in custody for an extended period of time while offering them incentives to voluntarily return to their country of origin or relocate to a different third country.
- We will demand the establishment of a national immigration court.
- We will annul the 'Grandchild Clause': We will advance legislation to amend the Law of Return and prevent the immigration of non-Jews to Israel in the context of the 'Grandchild Clause'.

- We will amend the 'Passport Law' passed by Avigdor Lieberman: We will pass legislation to revise the 'Passport Law' and thus prevent non-Jews from moving to Israel for economic reasons and exploiting the law in order to receive Israeli citizenship.

## **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS:**

- We will enforce the ban on hiring illegal immigrants and take to task employers who violate this law.
- We will advance the establishment of a detention center tailored to the needs of families of illegal immigrants where they will stay until they leave or relocate to a different country.

## **CHILDREN OF FOREIGN WORKERS:**

- Children of foreign workers without official status in Israel will no longer be eligible for free schooling. The legislation that we will advance in this regard will distinguish between immigrants with official work permits and immigrants who do not have official status in Israel.
- We will pass a government motion that mandates that children of foreign workers with official work permits must study in international schools in English, or in their native language, in order to prepare them for their return home and prevent them from settling in Israel.

## **PERSONAL SECURITY IN NEIGHBORHOODS WITH AN INFLUX OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS:**

- We will increase the police presence and law enforcement in these neighborhoods in order to bolster the residents' feelings of personal security.
- We will pass a government motion to restore and remodel these neighborhoods and place an emphasis on plans that call to expedite

urban gentrification. We will also invest in educational initiatives, welfare services, and legal assistance for local Israeli residents adversely affected by illegal immigration.