

Dear Dov,

I was very moved by your letter addressed to me, as well as by the letter you have sent to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The reprehensible events of last week that took place in Raanana have shocked and grieved us all. There is no place for such events in Israel, the state of all Jews. I share your steadfast stance in calling for respectful dialogue among all streams of Judaism wherever they are.

Together with my deputies and members of Raanana's city council, I have made sure to strongly condemn these events. We will do everything in our power to enable The Beit Shmueli community to continue on with their activities, in a pluralistic atmosphere and with the continued cooperation of all security forces in our city.

I have also asked Prime Minister Netanyahu to condemn the events, and I am happy that he responded to my words as did other senior ministers, including Minister of Education Naftali Bennett who also happens to reside in Ra'anana. Hate crimes against any person, regardless of his or her beliefs or the stream of faith to which he or she belongs, must fade from this world and it is our duty as leaders of the public to ensure that they are nipped in the bud.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your friends at the MetroWest community. You have all stood alongside the State of Israel for many years, helping in good deeds, donations and actions that have embodied the phrase "All of Israel care for one another". The State of Israel has been privileged to have the support of communities such as the MetroWest community, a community which is an exemplar of Jewish communities around the world.

I wish all of us that we may never again be subjected to any more vile actions such as the ones we've experienced last week, and that we may spend the most of our time in building the world's Jewish communities and the building of the State of Israel.

With best regards and sincere appreciation,

Zeev Bielski
Mayor of Raanana

Dear Dov and Leslie

Thank you so much for taking this important step in writing the Prime Minister with so many Rabbis of all the streams. Although he personally spoke out against the expressions of hate and intolerance (along with the death threats) part of the problem is the overall “atmosphere” that its “ok” for ministers, Knesset members, and leading Rabbis to say terrible things against the streams without being called to task. Unfortunately that can lead to what we saw last week in Raanana. The meetings you are planning to hold in the Metro West area are an important part of creating respectful dialogue, something that I hope can take place here as well.

As one of the leading Federations who for over two decades has had a deep understanding of the importance of pluralism in Israel it is not at all surprising that you took such a step in getting Rabbis of all streams to sign a letter to the Prime Minister.

I can only express our deepest gratitude to you for your leadership on this important issue.

By the way I’ll be in New York on Wednesday-Shabbat this week (primarily to honor Arthur and Betty Roswell at our congregation in Hillsborough) and would be happy to touch base with you.

With warm personal regards

Gilad Kariv
President and CEO
Israel Movement for Reform and Progressive Judaism

Dear Dov and Leslie,

Your letter to PM Netanyahu is very important and deeply appreciated.

The letter models the deep respect our North American Jewish community displays towards fellow Jews on a daily basis. We surely do not all agree with one another and yet we model what a diverse Jewish community can be.

It is very important that the PM knows how unified our community is in our love and support for the State of Israel and at the same time how we stand together for the values that must under gird the Jewish State.

Today V'Shabbat Shalom,

Rabbi Rick Jacobs
President
Union for Reform Judaism

Dearest friends

What a big give indeed.

I am moved and encouraged by your initiative (וברי נכ) may such initiative multiply) I have no doubt this makes a difference. I thank you for this strengthening and inspiring letter.

Anat Hoffman