

July 29, 2010

Honorable Benjamin Netanyahu
Office of the Prime Minister of Israel
Jerusalem, Israel

Dear Mr. Prime Minister,

The Masorti/Conservative movement in Israel and North America expresses its warm and heartfelt appreciation and thanks to you for the strong leadership role you played in working to preserve the unity of the Jewish people in connection with the recent debate surrounding the conversion bill being considered by the Knesset.

We want to assure you of our full commitment and cooperation in working with the Office of the Prime Minister and Natan Sharansky, Chair of The Jewish Agency, in developing efforts by consensus to facilitate conversion in Israel in ways that respect tradition as well as the diversity of Jewish life and the streams that Jews identify with around the world.

In particular, we want to note we identify with and align ourselves with those working on the important task of fully welcoming into Jewish life the tens of thousands of olim from the former Soviet Union who are citizens of Israel, serve in the IDF and think of themselves as Jews but whose halachic status is in question.

Respectfully,

The Rabbinical Assembly

Rabbi Gilah Dror
President

Rabbi Julie Schonfeld
Executive Vice President

**United Synagogue of
Conservative Judaism**

Richard Skolnik *International
President*

Rabbi Steven Wernick
*Executive Vice President
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**Masorti Foundation for
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Rabbi Alan Silverstein *Chair*

David H. Lissy *Executive
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**Masorti Movement
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Emily Levy-Shochat
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Dr. Stephen S. Wolnek
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**World Council of Conservative/Masorti
Synagogues (Masorti Olami)**

Alan H. Silberman
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