



# Update . . .

July 2014

5774 Tammuz



*Weisskopf and lobbyist at the Knesset on 17 June 2014.*

## **Knesset Caucus Receives Love for Israel's Proposal**

The Knesset Caucus to Strengthen the Family & Community (KCSFC) invited the Love for Israel Relief Fund to participate in a planning session on 17 June 2014. The KCSFC is currently the only Knesset body whose mission is to advance pro-family legislation.

One hot topic in the Knesset is abolishing the debtor's prison in Israel. Earlier this year Tzipi Livni pushed legislation to restrict the debtor's prison because it criminalizes poverty, unnecessarily breaks up families and violates human rights.

While the Love for Israel Relief Fund applauds Ms. Livni's sensitivity to preserving families and human rights, her legislation did not abolish the debtor's prison in 90% of its use.

When it comes to impoverished divorced parents who cannot afford child support payments that average between 80% and

150% of their gross salaries, these destitute fathers still get criminalized and their children get denied access to both of their parents. Such destitute parents can spend up to half their lives in debtor's prison when they are arrested every other month.

In fact, the Love for Israel Relief Fund knows of a case where the father fell behind on child support payments because he slipped into a coma for more than five years. Under current Israeli law, the judgment execution office issued a warrant for his arrest upon being discharged from the hospital and ordered to pay 500% per year in penalties – even though they knew he unable to pay because he was in a coma.

Multiply this family's legal troubles by 10,000 and that is how many new child get cut off from biological parents due to poverty. Unfortunately, Ms. Livni's new legislation does not protect the human rights

of such families – which constitute 90% of cases resulting in debtor's prison. In fact, the brutality of such a legal system results in a suicide rate among divorced fathers in Israel that is more than 250 times higher than the overall Israeli population. The end result is the child poverty rate in Israel is the highest among the U.N. countries that participate in the OECD.

Moshe Feiglin, chairman of the KCSFC, accepted a proposed amendment to this legislation from Love for Israel's lobbyist. Mr. Feiglin published four questions from our proposal in an open letter to Tzipi Livni. This led to a debate to amend Tzipi Livni's legislation and seeks to abolish the debtor's prison except in cases where *bona fide* criminal laws have been violated. As Ms. Livni pointed out – the debtor's prison is a gross violation of human rights and Israeli children suffer.

As we succeed in pushing more pro-family amendments through the Knesset, our experts estimate that we can save Israeli taxpayers over \$10 billion annually and save private donors like you nearly \$3 billion each year. Most importantly, however, pro-family amendments like the ones we are proposing in the KCSFC will allow our children the same rights to the most natural and least restrictive environment as children in Western countries enjoy.

We keep this holy work going thanks to your donations. The Love for Israel Relief Fund maximizes the impact of your donations. Every dollar you donate to our prevention efforts is like \$10 donated to reactionary projects. Thank you for your love of Israel!

Send checks to:

**Love for Israel Relief Fund**  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Suite 190-610  
Washington, DC 20004

**Our Holiest** work is advocating on behalf of at-risk Israeli children. This not only saves lives, it also saves over 90% on taxes and donations. A growing number of our national leaders from across the social and political spectrum are responding positively to our exhortations on behalf of these little treasures from Heaven. Your support empowers us to give a voice to children who cannot speak out for themselves.

**Delivering hope** is an ongoing project that delivers aid to needy children in Israel. Expenses for the delivery vehicle are \$500 per month. This allows us to pick up and deliver up to \$100,000 in aid per delivery. You can also sponsor deliveries for one month or more with a sponsor sign on the delivery vehicle for your sponsored deliveries. Donations designated “delivering hope” will be applied to operational costs of the delivery vehicle.

**Special events**, like weddings and bar mitzvahs, happen year round for hundreds of at-risk kids and needy young adults in Israel. Donations designated “special events” will be set aside for such use.

**You can** donate online at:

<http://love4israel.org/donate.html>

**On behalf** of the Israelis you help - Todah Robah!