

THE LONDON INITIATIVE

SHAPING A BETTER **SHARED FUTURE** FOR
ISRAEL, ALL ISRAELIS AND WORLD JEWRY

STATEMENT TO MEMBERS OF THE LONDON INITIATIVE FROM THE CO-FOUNDERS FOLLOWING THE DECISION OF ISRAEL'S CENTRAL ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

Sir Mick Davis and Mike Prashker

24 September 2026

Dear TLI Members – friends!

We are writing to express our unequivocal condemnation of yesterday's decision by Israel's Central Elections Committee to disqualify the United Arab List and the Joint List (Hadash, Ta'al and Balad) from standing in the upcoming elections.

On a personal level, we want to express our profound concern and empathy for all Arab Palestinian Israeli members of TLI. We cannot begin to imagine the pain such a decision causes to each of you and the entire community. It is an attack on the civic, political and emotional belonging at the core of your just aspiration for full and fair shared citizenship.

We know that it is not unusual for the Central Elections Committee to take such decisions and, as has previously occurred, the decision will hopefully be overturned by the Supreme Court. Yet the fact that this cynical, racist grandstanding has become routine does not make it any less shameful.

It is also a reminder of the importance of the Supreme Court and the motivation behind this government's judicial coup against its authority – a coup many of you have worked so hard to oppose.

The partisan decision of the Committee is a direct attack on the fundamental and inalienable rights of political organization and representation by and for Israel's Arab Palestinian citizens. It is also a direct assault on two of TLI's foundational propositions: the promotion of Israel as a mature liberal democracy and the advancement of societal fairness.

We choose not to relate here to the decisions of the Central Elections Committee specifically regarding the disqualification of Sami Abu Shehadeh and Ofer Cassif. We do not wish to be distracted from our principled opposition to the overall decision as it relates to the right of all citizens to democratic representation.

We are also concerned by the lack of symmetry and hypocrisy of the Committee. The Committee is made up of members who, both at party and individual levels, face the same charges used to justify the disqualification. Such members have taken a politically motivated decision about others while facing no accountability themselves.

In conclusion, as co-founders of TLI we condemn this sweeping, racist decision and recommit to working with all of you to advance the propositions on which TLI is founded and which we all share.