



## Yesh Din

### Volunteers for Human Rights

On April 23, 2025, the Knesset announced its schedule for the first week of its summer session. **A discussion on the NGOs Bill (Foreign Donations Tax Bill) will be held on Monday, May 5, 2025**, at 11:00 in the Constitution, Law and Justice Committee headed by Simcha Rothman of the Religious Zionism party.

The current bill proposes an 80% tax on donations from foreign governmental entities. In fact, a tax of any amount would effectively eliminate foreign funding as a viable resource for NGOs, undermining their financial stability. Additionally, the bill barred access to judicial review stating that: “A court shall not consider any request submitted by an NGO whose primary funding comes from a foreign state entity if it is not funded by the state.” It is important to note that virtually all Israeli organizations engaged in litigation on behalf of human rights rely of foreign funding, and few if any of them receive Israeli state funding. By preventing petitions and appeals to Israeli courts, this provision threatens one of the most important tools to promote democracy and human rights.

During its winter session, the Knesset passed the bill in a preliminary hearing. The process was suspended by the Knesset’s winter session

coming to an end, and is now being resumed. The current stage in the legislation process is its preparation for first hearing (first vote of three) at the Knesset committee, where it's expected to undergo some changes. However, even if the tax rate is lowered, the harmful result will be the same, as donors will not be able to allocate any funds that are taxed. It is clear that the government is eager to expedite the process, since the discussion was scheduled for the very first week of the new Knesset session.

If passed, this bill will impose severe financial and operational restrictions on NGOs receiving funding from foreign governmental entities. This will not only diminish human rights in Israel and the OPT, but it will also endanger the very existence of Yesh Din's existence and that of many other Israeli human rights organizations. This attempt to muzzle civil society further entrenches anti-democratic measures imported from some of the world's most repressive regimes. A state that respects human rights and the rule of law does not fear scrutiny or a vibrant civil society, and does not need laws that silence dissent.

***Yesh Din calls on the international community to apply pressure on the Israeli government not to pass this bill. Historically, similar legislative efforts were met with strong opposition from the international community, which played a pivotal role in preventing them from becoming the law. These interventions underscored the importance of global partnerships in safeguarding Israel's civil society and protecting democratic values.***

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*Yesh Din is required by law to make the following statement:*

*Yesh Din is mostly funded by foreign governmental entities - through grants devoted to the provision of humanitarian assistance and the promotion of human rights. A list of our donors is available on the Israeli Associations Register's website and on Yesh Din's website.*

*Yesh Din is proud to be funded by States that are committed to the rule of law, that believe the occupation is not an internal Israeli matter, and that support the defense of international humanitarian law and human rights.*



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