



March 1, 2019

Statement on Otzma Yehudit Party

Driven by our love of Israel, its people, land, and state, the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation is unwavering for our support for the Jewish State of Israel. Not only is it the birthplace of our spiritual, religious, and political identity, but the state rose as an expression of our highest democratic values. Israel's Declaration of Independence refers to those values when it guarantees "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions."

Because of that history, commitment, and love, we join the growing consensus in the Jewish community denouncing the inclusion of the Otzma Yehudit ("Jewish Power") party in the Israeli election process. Otzma Yehudit is an unabashedly racist extension of the hateful Kahane ideology. Those reprehensible views do not reflect the core values of the State of Israel nor the Jewish people, and must be unequivocally rejected.

Politics must never prevail over morality. Racism and hatred must be unequivocally condemned. We call on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to publicly denounce Otzma Yehudit and declare them an unacceptable party for inclusion in any future government.