

The Law of Return

In order to protect world Jewry, the Law of Return grants people of Jewish descent the right to become citizens of Israel. While many other countries have similar laws, only the Jewish state is criticized for it.

Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that people have a right “to return to [their] country”.¹ *Israel is the country of the Jewish people.*

- Jews have lived in Israel for **over 3,000 years**.²
 - Archaeologists have found 3,000 year-old pieces of pottery with proto-Canaanite writing, a predecessor to Hebrew.³
 - The Dead Sea Scrolls, which are a collection of Jewish writings dating back almost 2,000 years, were found in Israel.⁴
 - The almost 2,000 year-old fortress of Masada was the site of Jewish resistance against the Romans.⁵
- The holiest sites to Jews, the Western Wall and the Temple Mount, are in Jerusalem.⁶

While the world consistently turns its back on endangered Jews, Israel is a safe-haven for refugees.

- Around **6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust**.⁷
 - If a Jewish state was available for these Jews to take refuge in, this grotesque number would have been drastically reduced.
- In 1939, 900 Jews boarded the SS St. Louis on an ill-fated journey to the United States in hopes of escaping Nazi persecution.⁸
 - **The US refused to take in any of the Jewish refugees**,⁹ sending them back to be murdered in Europe.
 - More than 250 of these Jews were murdered by Nazis.¹⁰
- Today, world Jewry faces just as much anti-Semitism as it did 100 years ago.
 - During a span of 60 days in 2017, there were 89 bomb threats against Jewish institutions in the United States alone.¹¹
 - Although Jews represent less than 1% of the French population, in 2014 over **50% of racist attacks** in France targeted Jews.¹²

¹ Claiming Human Rights. *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

² Judaism 101. *The Land of Israel*.

³ NBC. John Roach. *8 Jewish Archaeological Discoveries*.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ The Times of Israel. Simon Poler. *Where is Judaism's Holiest Site?* June 8, 2017.

⁷ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Documenting Numbers of Victims of the Holocaust and Nazi Persecution*.

⁸ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. *Voyage of the St. Louis*.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ BBC. Mike Lanchin. *SS St Louis: The ship of Jewish Refugees Nobody Wanted*. May 13, 2014.

¹¹ eJewish Philanthropy. *Why Now? Why Here? Understanding the Rise of Anti-Semitism in America*. February 28, 2017.

¹² The Atlantic. Jeffrey Goldberg. *Is It Time for Jews to Leave Europe?* April 2015.

- From 2015 to 2016, hate crimes against Jews rose by 36% in the United Kingdom.¹³
 - That is **over 1 bomb threat a day targeting Jewish life.**
- In 2017, two Jewish men were attacked with a hacksaw in Paris, simply because they were wearing yarmulkes.¹⁴

Israel is the only country that will *always* accept and protect Jewish refugees. Other countries, even the United States, have refused to accept Jewish refugees fleeing persecution.

- Theodore Herzl, the “father of modern Zionism”, founded the movement in order to provide a necessary place of refuge for oppressed Jews.¹⁵
- Between 1948 and 1972, over 820,000 Jewish refugees were forced to flee their homes in Arab countries, simply because they were Jewish.¹⁶
 - **Israel took in 586,000 Jewish refugees**, despite the economic burdens they knew would come with a large immigrant population.¹⁷
 - As of 2014, less than 4,000 Jews still remain in Arab countries.¹⁸
- In “Operation Moses” (1983-1984), almost 8,000 Ethiopian Jews were airlifted out of inhospitable Sudanese refugee camps and brought to safety in Israel.¹⁹
- In 1991, around the end of the Ethiopian civil war, Israel airlifted over 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in less than 36 hours in “Operation Solomon”.²⁰
 - **Without a state to safely flee to, and Israeli aid, these Jews would have likely died.**

Although many countries have Laws of Return, Israel is targeted and criticized, displaying how the only Jewish state is purposefully discriminated against.

- Other countries with Laws of Return include, but are not limited to, China, Germany, Greece, India, Lebanon, and Russia.²¹
 - The world fails to criticize any of these countries, choosing to target the only Jewish state.
- The United Nation Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) hypocritically criticized Israel’s Law of Return, falsely claiming it was racist.²²
 - In reality, Israel has no different goal than any other nation with Laws of Return: to unite, support, and protect people of the same heritage in their homeland.

¹³ The Guardian. Harriet Sherwood. *Reports of Antisemitic Incidents Increase to Record Levels in UK*. February 1, 2017.

¹⁴ Independent. Lizzie Dearden. *Jewish Men Attacked With Hacksaw by Men ‘Shouting Anti-Semitic Abuse’ in Paris*. Feb. 25, 2017.

¹⁵ Judaism 101. *The Land of Israel*.

¹⁶ Jewish Virtual Library. *Fact Sheet: Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries*. December 2015.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ The Jerusalem Post. Michael Omer-Man. *This Week in History: Operation Moses Begins*. November 19, 2010.

²⁰ The New York Times. Joel Brinkley. *Ethiopian Jews and Israelis Exult as Airlift is Completed*. May 16, 1991.

²¹ Daled Amos. *Israel's Law Of Return: One Of Many Countries With Such A Law*. February 27, 2012.

²² United Nations ESCWA. *Israeli Practices Towards to Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid*. 2017.