



הכנסת
THE KNESSET

MEMBER OF KNESSET

חבר הכנסת

Jerusalem, 29 September 2020
11 Tishrei 5781

The Honorable Henrik Dam Kristensen MP
Speaker of the Danish Parliament
Folketinget
Christiansborg
Copenhagen
Denmark

Dear Mr. Speaker,

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that I have been appointed by the Speaker of the Knesset, MK Yariv Levin, to serve as Head of the Israel–Denmark Parliamentary Friendship Group. I have accepted this role with a sense of mission to advance and strengthen the relations between our parliaments and our countries as a whole.

I am aware that the Danish Parliament does not have the practice of establishing bilateral parliamentary friendship groups, a fact I respect and understand. At the same time, I intend to work in my new role to develop our inter-parliamentary ties with content that is meaningful and relevant to both Members of Knesset and Members of the Folketing.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the Folketing's commitment under your leadership to conduct uncompromising and ongoing efforts against antisemitism. We remain concerned about antisemitic incidents such as those that took place in Denmark during the past year, and I hope that the adoption of a firm stance by Parliament—which might include the adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism—would send a clear message throughout the country.

I would add that the bill banning non-medical circumcision, which Parliament is scheduled to consider in the coming weeks, would—if approved—cause significant harm to Jewish life in Denmark. We all remember how the Danish people not only guaranteed the religious liberty of the Jews in the past, but protected it. Today, as then, we must guarantee freedom of religion as well as freedom from religion, and I would greatly appreciate your efforts on this matter.

I am pleased that the ties between our countries are so extensive and that they have grown stronger in recent years. I assure you that you will find me a genuine and active partner in efforts to further these relations, and I look forward to working with you and the Members of the Folketing to that end.



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In closing, Mr. Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to wish you and all the Members of the Folketing the very best of health.

Sincerely,

MK Yair Golan
Head of the Israel–Denmark Parliamentary Friendship Group

cc: The Honorable MK Yariv Levin, Speaker of the Knesset