Response To Common Inaccuracy: Israel Can't be Jewish & Democratic

Inaccuracy: As a self-described “Jewish State,” Israel is by nature an undemocratic and discriminatory country.

Response

Democracy is the cornerstone of the State of Israel. As stated in its founding declaration, Israel’s government will be “for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice, peace as envisaged by the Prophets of Israel, it will ensure 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; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.” Hebrew and Arabic (as well as English) are official languages of the state, and all its citizens regardless of religion, ethnicity or color are accorded full civil and political rights, and equal participation in all aspects of Israeli social, political, and civic life.

As in every country, much more needs to be done to promote greater educational and employment opportunities for minorities, particularly Israeli Arabs. Much of this disparity is due to scarce resources. The Israeli government has been committed to investing in the necessary infrastructure and assistance for these communities and there are numerous non-government organizations in Israel and abroad who monitor government policies and treatment of minorities.