

HAS RELIGIOUS ZIONISM GIVEN UP ON UNITY?

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Abstract

This article examines the current possibility of dialogue between different groups within the Religious Zionist sector in Israel. We begin by exploring different opposing tendencies within Religious Zionism in recent years. We then discuss two possible areas in which the different groups interact – the Israeli Parliament, and the sector’s attitude towards sexual assaults. We claim that the existence of these two common issues, demonstrates that cooperation within the sector is possible. While the sector’s representatives in the parliament are located within the political sphere, the discourse and policy regarding sexual assaults takes place in the public sphere. Drawing on John Rawls’ philosophy, we explain why sectorial polarization within the political sphere intensifies, while the public sphere enables a cooperation even amongst the sector’s furthest extremes. It is therefore our conclusion, that the way to bring the different groups within the sector closer together, is to increase the level of cooperation in the public sphere.