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**PRESS RELEASE**

**A New Survey: Israel Institutionalizes Racism**

More than 90% of the Israeli public believe that government authorities are not doing enough (46%) or not doing anything (45%) to eradicate racism in Israel, while 71% of the Israeli public believe that the remarks of **politicians and religious leaders** are radicalizing the discourse in Israel. This information arises from a new survey that was published today (Tuesday), organized by the Coalition against Racism in cooperation with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, under the auspices of the Rafi Smith Institute, to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Racism, which will take place on March 21.

The survey data show a worrisome picture concerning what is happening in Israeli society, despite the fact that the situation of racism in Israel has not changed in relation to the previous survey (2016). In that survey, too, almost half (47%) indicated that Israeli society was more racist in comparison with the situation that existed before the last elections in 2015.

According to the survey findings, which represent the responses of 500 people (400 Jews and 100 Arabs), the widespread perception is that Israel is institutionalizing racism, such that most of the data matches the data from the previous survey, with minor changes in relation to racism against different communities within Israel.

According to the survey, the communities against which racism and resentment are the most severe are Arabs (76%) and asylum seekers (76%), followed by Ethiopians (72%), then Ultra-Orthodox and LGBT (65% each). At the bottom of the list, we find that 43% of Israeli society believe that there is racism directed against Mizrahim, 39% believe that there is misogyny directed against women, 35% believe that there is racism directed against Russian speakers who came from the former Soviet Union, and only 22% of Israeli society believe that there is racism directed against Ashkenazim.

Like the previous survey (2016), one in four Israelis indicated that they had personally been the target of racist statements or behavior.

Among other results, the survey shows that two-thirds of Israeli society believe that social media is radicalizing the racist discourse in Israel, slightly fewer than in 2016 (relatively more indicated that they reflected the discourse).

It is worth noting that, according to the survey, on some topics, women are likely to indicate that the level of racism is higher than what men indicate. This is particularly striking in relation to misogyny against women: 48% of women indicated that there is severe or significant misogyny directed against them while only 28% of men indicated the same.

It is also worth noting that on some topics, secular people are likely to indicate that the level of racism is more severe than that indicated by religious people. For example, 82% of secular people indicated that there is racism against asylum seekers in Israel as opposed to only 62% of religious people. On the subject of racism against the Ultra-Orthodox, however, the data is reversed: 90% of religious people indicated that there is racism against the Ultra-Orthodox as opposed to only 63% of secular people.

Likewise, on many topics, the evaluation of the level of racism is higher among old-time Israelis than among those who came from the former Soviet Union. Only in relation to racism against those who came from the former Soviet Union is the data reversed: 51% of those who came from the former Soviet Union believe there is racism directed against them as opposed to 31% of old-time Israelis.

Attorney Nidal Othman, director of the Coalition against Racism, responded to the findings saying that, even while the findings indicate that there is a high level of racism in Israel, it is possible to distinguish public awareness of racism between people and institutional racism. We are studying the survey findings and further analyzing them, and we will establish programs that are tailored to the various communities, according to their level of awareness and denial of the prevalence of racism. The public does not feel that there is any investment at all on the part of government authorities to eradicate racism, and they blame public figures and religious leaders for incitement, for spreading hatred, and for their very negative contribution to the index of racism in Israel. We call upon the public to join in the struggle against racism and not to remain apathetic, looking at what is happening from afar, but to take a step forward to promote the struggle against racism in Israel.