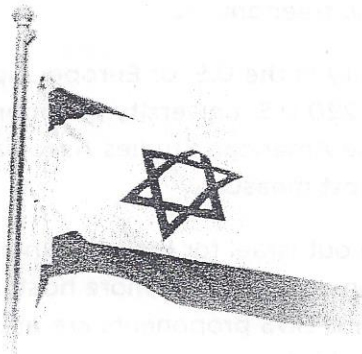


10 things college students need to know about the real Israel



“It is quite a spectacle to see European companies suggest that it’s unethical to do business with Israelis, while so many of their colleagues are flocking for new deals in Iran, the land of public stoning of adulterers and hanging of gays....”

DANIEL SCHWAMMENTHAL
DIRECTOR OF AJC’S BRUSSELS-BASED
TRANSATLANTIC INSTITUTE IN
“THE WALL STREET JOURNAL”

AJC Global Jewish
Advocacy

- 1 Israel’s declaration of independence ensures all of its citizens “complete equality of social and political rights... irrespective of religion, race, or sex.” It guarantees freedom of religion, conscience, language, education, and culture.
- 2 Arabic, like Hebrew, is an official language in Israel.
- 3 Muslims, Christians, Druze, and other minorities account for more than 20 percent of Israel’s population.
- 4 Each minority in Israel maintains autonomy in religious affairs and supervises its own sacred places. Indeed, the holiest site in Judaism, the Temple Mount, which is also revered by Muslims, has remained under the auspices of the Islamic Waqf.
- 5 The Middle East’s only increasing Christian population is in Israel.
- 6 In 2014, Freedom House’s flagship publication ranked Israel in its “Free” category, along with 87 other nations.
- 7 63.5% of Israeli Arabs voted in 2015, an Arab party emerged as the third largest in the country, and an Arab Supreme Court justice supervised the election.
- 8 All Palestinians have been given the right to appeal directly to the Israeli Supreme Court.
- 9 A survey by Gaycities.com and American Airlines recently ranked Tel Aviv as the world’s most gay-friendly city.
- 10 22% of all medical students in Israel are Arab, matching almost precisely their share of the general population. At the Technion, Israel’s equivalent to MIT, 19.5% of students are Arab Israelis. At the University of Haifa, one-third of the students are Arabs.