

Y NET-GESHER FOUNDATION POLL

55% of secular Israeli Jews prefer not to buy *Eda Haredit Badatz* products

A joint Ynet-Gesher Foundation poll shows that one-third of Israel's secular public would take part in a boycott of the ultra-Orthodox kashrut body while others would do so given the choice of the stamp of other kashrut authorities

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While the secular boycott of food products with an *Eda Haredit kashrut* stamp did not catch on, a recent poll shows it did have potential.

A joint Ynet and **Gesher Foundation** survey suggests that the majority of secular Israelis prefer not to purchase food products supervised by the *Eda Haredit Badatz kashrut* authority, one of several Jewish rabbinical courts, so as not to support members of the extreme-*haredi* (*ultra orthodox*) faction.

The poll indicated that a third of secular Israeli Jews endorse a full-out boycott.

The survey was conducted by the Panels Research Institute and was based on 504 respondents – a national sample representing the mature population in large Jewish communities in Israel. The maximal sampling error was $\pm 4.4\%$.

Asked whether they would endorse a boycott of *Eda Haredit Badatz* products, 37% responded they oppose any type of boycott, 23% said that given a choice they would purchase products with other kosher stamps, 21% stated they endorse a boycott, 11% said they prefer *Badatz* products for the level of supervision, while 8% did not have an opinion on the matter.

An analysis according to religious affiliation indicated that 30% of secular Israeli Jews would not purchase *Eda Haredit Badatz* products and 25% would prefer products with other stamps; 88% of the ultra-Orthodox public would opt for *Badatz* due to their high level of supervision, whereas 49% of traditional Jews and 41% of the religious public oppose any type of boycott.

General indifference

The survey further indicated that 70% of secular Jews and 63% of traditional Jews oppose boycotting businesses which desecrate Shabbat, whereas 76% of *haredim* (ultra orthodox) and 68% of the religious public were understanding of such boycotts.

The poll also suggested that the Israeli public is generally indifferent to boycotts of certain groups within society.

Ilan Geal-Dor, Executive Director of the **Gesher Foundation**, commented on the survey's results:

"In general, people do not like being told what to do or not do. On the other hand, when one is being limited in his actions such as the *haredim* coercing kashrut authorities and imposing boycotts, the general public would counteract and boycott that group."

"We in Gesher stress the importance of dialogue over boycotts. A boycott only creates anger and frustration and would, at best, win the battle and lose the war."