

Y NET-GESHER FOUNDATION POLL

87% of secular Israelis: We won't live in a *haredi* building

Ynet-Gesher Foundation poll finds two-thirds of secular Jews have not visited an ultra-Orthodox home, one-third have no religious acquaintance or friend. And shows results of how many secular employers would hire a former yeshiva student?

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A new Ynet and **Gesher Foundation** survey reveals most of the secular population in Israel would not want to buy an apartment located in a building populated by an ultra-Orthodox majority. In another expression of alienation towards the sector, the poll found that two-thirds of the general public has never visited a *haredi* (ultra-Orthodox) home. Panels Research Center conducted the survey among 506 interviewees – a representative sample of the elder Jewish population living in Jewish communities in Israel, not including the *haredi* sector.

This survey was taken in preparation for a Gesher Foundation Conference on Religious and Secular Jews called "**Segregated Country**", which was held last week in Jerusalem. Israeli Housing and Construction Minister Ariel Atias ([Shas](#)) and former Knesset Member Yosef Paritzky (Shinui) also participated in the debate.

The first question asked in the survey was: "Would you purchase an apartment located in a building populated by a majority of ultra-Orthodox families?" 45% said "definitely not", 32% replied "probably not", 17% answered they would do it only if there are enough secular or religious nationalists living in the neighborhood, and 6% responded "definitely yes".

The survey also found that a majority of the secular and traditional public would not be willing to purchase an apartment in such a building (87% and 63% respectively answered "definitely not" or "I think not"), but the religious public was divided (51% support the purchase and 49% are against it). Sixty-seven percent responded negatively to the question: "Have you had the opportunity to visit a *haredi* house of a friend or acquaintance?". Half of the survey participants admitted to not personally knowing an ultra-Orthodox person, and 33% answered positively.

After analyzing the results, it was discovered that secular (78%) and traditional (56%) Jews have not visited an ultra-Orthodox house during the past year, but religious Jews have done so (72%).

Absorption of *haredi* Jews

The last part of the survey asked the participants, "Assuming that you are a business owner, and an ultra-Orthodox man, a yeshiva student for the past decade, applies for a job. How would you behave if this man was found qualified for the position?".

The results: 57% would hire the applicant only after making sure he would not have trouble fitting in at a non-*haredi* work place as far as keeping Kosher, modesty and similar issues are concerned. 35% would

hire him either way, and 8% would not hire him "concerned that it would harm the social fabric" or for other reasons.

Executive Director of the Geshher Foundation, Ilan Geal-Dor said of the findings, "This survey raises an important point regarding Israeli society – people don't want to live near ultra-Orthodox Jews and don't want to hire them. We, in Geshher, ask how can we deal with this? At what times and in what situations does the general public steer clear of the ultra-Orthodox sector? And perhaps the ultra-Orthodox sector brought this on themselves?"

"We feel obligated to actively work towards breaking the barriers between these populations. Today everyone realized how important this issue is, from a social viewpoint and especially an economical stance."