



Who is a Jew?

A heated discussion took place on the topic of Conversion – an unresolved and painful issue for the Jewish people.

The Keynote Speaker at the conference (which was open to the public and took place at the Gesher Center on March 29th) was Knesset Member Tzipi Livni, Leader of the Opposition. She addressed the obstacles facing would-be converts, whose conversions were at risk of being invalidated by the Rabbinate. Livni said: *"If a solution is not found, many of these people, who are being prevented from becoming integrated into Israeli society solely by Jewish religious law, will simply seek some other social solution. **This will create a deep rift among the Jewish people.**"*



A heated panel discussion followed, facilitated by media commentator, Amit Segel which included Rabbi Chaim Iram, of the Institute for Jewish Studies; Rabbi Shaul Farber of Itim (the Jewish Life and Information Center); psychologist, Ella Shore, and Dr. Ephraim Zadoff of the Tmura Institute.