The International Progressive Jewish Network
Website: JlinkInternational.org
Email: Network.JLink@gmail.com

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Dear Mr. Gadi Eisenkot,

We, members of progressive Diaspora Jewry from many different countries, recognize and appreciate your commitment to democracy, security and peace for the Israeli people.

The voters in Israel have spoken and the turnout and results clearly reflect Israel's full diversity.
You are now at the stage of coalition building in order to form the next government.
Concessions – even contrary to previously held positions – are required.
Failing to create a majority coalition can only lead to a stalemate and eventually chaos, a strategically dangerous position for Israel, especially considering the current turmoil in the region. It is important for the citizens of Israel - and Jews internationally- to have stability and a solid platform for future growth.

The mandates of the voters have provided a clear path forward.
The current governing coalition has been defeated holding approximately 53 seats.
The opposition – arithmetically – has won 67 seats. The ethnic composition of almost 30% of the opposition should not be an obstacle to forming the next government in a nation such as Israel committed to democracy.

In a sense the political leadership of the State of Israel is representative of world Jewry.
We look at our own communities and are acutely aware that if the same exclusionary ethnic criteria were applied to us as Jews, a horrible past of discrimination returns into sharp focus.

Spurning the hands of the Arab parties – *because they are Arab* – will create a backlash against all Jews everywhere.

It is also in the interests of Israeli society that a leader de-legitimise racism and anti-Arab prejudice amongst the population. A leader who can propel the State of Israel out of worn-out paradigms of us vs them to begin the next chapter of growth, stability and security for all citizens.

We beg you to stand back and allow a strategic vision to prevail.
Democracy has offered an opportunity. A leader who seizes it can stand alongside, and perhaps surpass, the great figures in Israel's history.
One who refuses will be remembered for a tragic historic miss.

J-Link is an international network of progressive Jewish organizations. We share a love of Israel and a commitment to democracy, human rights, religious pluralism, and a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We believe in the values enshrined in Israel's Declaration of Independence, which promises "complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race or sex." For more visit: www.JLinkInternational.org