



THE PRESIDENT

ירושלים, ג' באייר התשפ"א

Jerusalem, April 15, 2021

Dear friends,

Soon we shall celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut, Israel's Independence Day, and I take this opportunity to send my greetings to your community from here in Jerusalem, the capital city of the State of Israel and of all the Jewish People.

The world never before witnessed the revived sovereignty of a nation that struggled successfully to establish an independent state after two thousand years of exile that included deportations and pogroms, attempts at total annihilation and tests of faith. Despite all of that, we returned to the land of our fathers to establish here a national home.

We can look back with great pride at the achievements of the State of Israel over more than seventy years, achievements that are also those of all members of our People throughout the world. Despite so many challenges and in face of enemies who seek to undermine our very existence, our national enterprise lays down more roots, grows in depth and becomes ever stronger. Each year brings new challenges, and this past year we have shared in the very difficult challenge of the Covid-19 Pandemic that has disrupted lives in almost every nation of the world. Yet we look forward with hope that through real cooperation and partnership we shall all overcome this and find further opportunities for new achievements.

Beyond all these challenges, we, in Israel, are very aware of the extra difficulties faced by our brothers and sisters in the diaspora who have faced a rise in the scourge of anti-Semitism in many countries of the world. This increase in anti-Jewish and anti-Israel attacks also reinforces the vital importance of the strong ties between the State of Israel and our fellow Jews in the Diaspora and the magnitude of our mutual commitment. We have been blessed with the development of the very welcome vaccines against Covid-19 and we believe that the vaccine against the virus of anti-Semitism and racism will be found in education, dissemination of accurate information and acceptance of mutual responsibility by all.

This past difficult year of the Covid-19 Pandemic has also been a year of welcome new opportunities in our region that included the Abraham Accords and the normalization agreements with a number of Arab nations so that we can hopefully look forward to a more harmonious future.

We hope that by next year it will be possible for us all to celebrate Yom Ha'atzma'ut together here in Israel, but meanwhile I invite you all to join with your brothers and sisters in Israel and throughout the world for a virtual celebration of Yom Ha'atzma'ut together.

Happy Independence Day! – Yom Ha'atzma'ut same'ach!

Yours Sincerely,

Reuven (Ruv) Rivlin