

# Ruderman Family Foundation Poll: Israeli Attitudes Toward American Jews

*The Ruderman Family Foundation commissioned Israel's Dialog polling firm to survey Israeli attitudes toward American Jews. In late November 2015, 500 randomly selected Israeli Jewish adults were asked by telephone the following questions (margin of error: 4%):*

## **QUESTION 1**

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared to the leadership of the Jewish community in the United States that “every Jew should feel that the Western Wall [Kotel] belongs to him and every Jew should feel welcome in Israel.” Do you agree or disagree that all Jews, including Reform and Conservative, should feel that the Western Wall [Kotel] belongs to him and that every Jew should feel welcome in Israel?

82% – Agree

14% – Disagree

4% – Don't know

## **QUESTION 2**

A few months ago, Minister of Religious Affairs David Azoulay said that “the Reform Jews in America have lost their way, and we need to make sure that all Jews return to Judaism.” Do you think these comments from a senior Israeli leader are harmful to Israel?

55% – Harmful

30% – Not harmful

15% – Don't know

## **QUESTION 3**

Do you think that the American Jewish community supports Israel today as it did in the past, more than before, or less than before?

42% – Less than before

32% – Same as before

15% – Don't know

11% – More than before

## **QUESTION 4**

Why do you think there's a distancing taking place?

29% – Israel isn't as interesting to them as in the past

- 20% – Israeli governments haven't invested enough in strengthening the relationship
- 17% – American Jews do not feel that Israel respects their Jewishness
- 16% – As a result of offensive comments made by MKs and Ministers toward American Jewry
- 12% – American Jews are afraid that supporting Israel may harm them
- 6% – Don't know

**QUESTION 5**

Do you agree or disagree with the statement that the relationship between Israel and the American Jewish community has a direct impact on the relationship between the two countries?

- 67% – Agree
- 19% – Disagree
- 14% – Don't know

**QUESTION 6**

Do you think leaders and opinion-leaders, both in Israel and the U.S., should or should not take action in order to strengthen the relationship between Israel and the American Jewish community?

- 88% – Yes (should take action)
- 6% – No
- 6% – Don't know

**QUESTION 7**

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "The distancing of the American Jewish community from Israel is a threat to state security"?

- 59% – Agree
- 27% – Disagree
- 14% – Don't know

**QUESTION 8**

Which do you think is the largest religious movement within the American Jewish community?

- 38% – Secular Jews
- 32% – Reform
- 17% – Orthodox
- 12% – Conservative