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# RACISM IN ISRAEL



INSIDE ISRAEL



Liel – an Ethiopian Israeli combat soldier serving in the IDF's Givati Brigade – experienced blatant racial discrimination at the Jilbon Farm restaurant in the Golan Heights, Channel 12 reported.

Liel and his team went out for a meal at the restaurant after a day of military training. Their young waitress skipped over Liel's order, and when asked about it by his friends, responded by saying "kushim (a derogatory term for Ethiopians) get to eat last."

Liel stormed out of the restaurant, with his commander and team following him in an act of protest. "This situation never happened to me before," he was quoted as saying. "For me, it's absurd that someone would actually say something like this in 2023."



Full article: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-754341>





Two months ago, the Israel Police dropped a case against Yaakov Dego, an Ethiopian Israeli, after falsely accusing him of kicking his dog outside chef Tom Aviv's Tel Aviv restaurant, Coco Bambino, in December 2021.

Aviv, assuming erroneously that Dego had abused his dog, physically assaulted him, but was released after paying a fine of NIS 2,500. For his part, Dego had his dog taken away from him.

The restaurant closed its doors after security footage of the incident was released to the public. But why did it take so long for Dego to be acquitted, given that the police had the security footage right from the start?

Full article: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-754341>

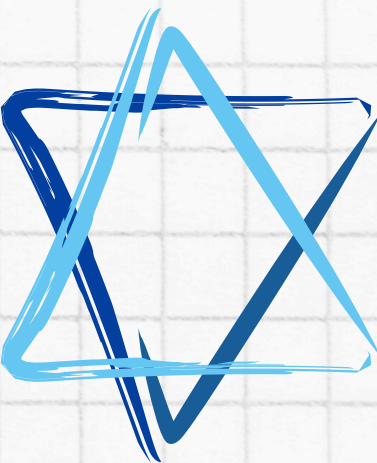


Teachers from a school in Netivot opened a racist WhatsApp group Sunday in which they allegedly gossiped and laughed about their Ethiopian students.

The students departed for a school trip on Sunday, and the girls sitting behind the teachers on the bus noticed their teachers texting in the group called “Black [Girls] School Trip.”

The sister of one of the students told Maariv that “They were on the way to a three-day trip when my sister suddenly called me. She was really upset and said that the teachers opened an insulting WhatsApp group about the students. We asked them to forward us the photos. The girls are very offended and cannot continue with the trip so we demanded that they be returned home.”

Following the incident, the teachers chaperoning the trip were replaced, and those involved in the group apologized.





Another student's mother told KAN that this wasn't the first instance of the school exhibiting racism.

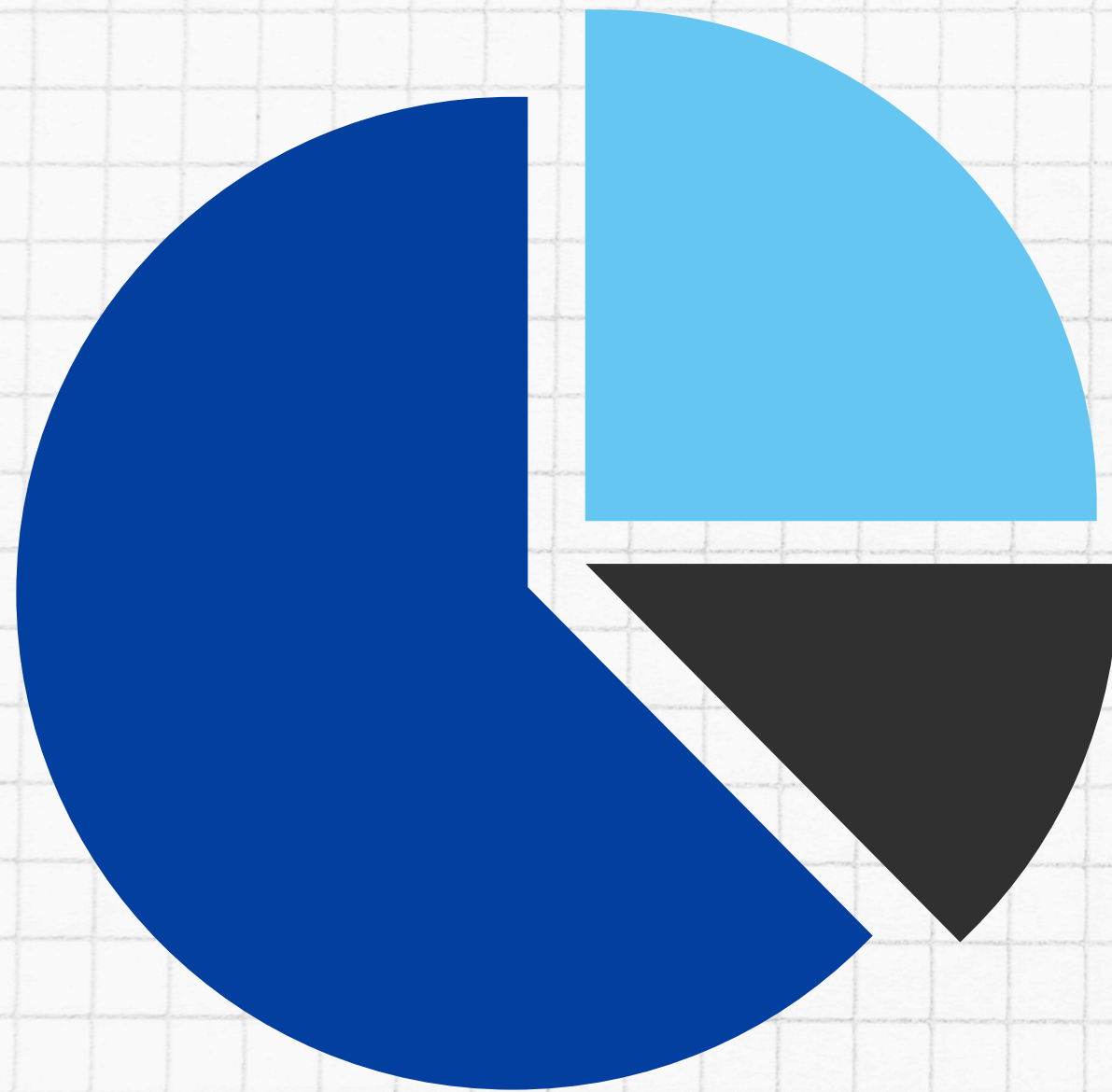
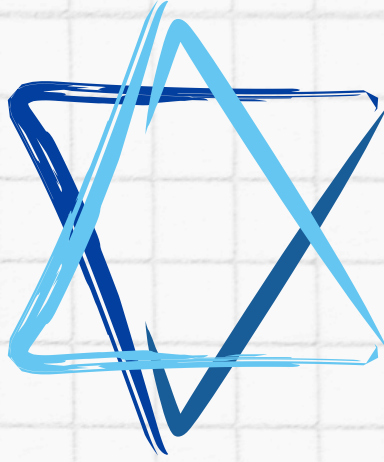
"Some girls were told they couldn't go on the trip because of behavior problems, and those girls are Ethiopian," she said. "On the other hand, another student, who isn't Ethiopian, also has behavior issues and was allowed to go."

Education Minister Yoav Kisch said in a statement... "there's no room for racism and discrimination in the State of Israel and, of course, in the education system. The teachers need to set an example on the subject. The incident will be dealt with severely with all the tools at our disposal. I'm sorry for the distress that was caused for the students. There will be zero tolerance for these sorts of incidents on my watch."



Full article: <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-734100>





**According to a 2019 Israel national census, Israelis of Ethiopian descent have an income that is 35% lower than the average Israeli. Only 8% of men have an academic degree compared to 29% in the rest of the Israeli male population. When Israelis of Ethiopian descent do successfully complete higher education, they earn approximately 25% less than the average Jewish Israeli.**

**Accepting this prescription, in August 1996, the Israeli government formed an inter ministerial committee to eradicate racism against those of Ethiopian descent and outlined 52 recommendations to help correct institutionalized and societal racism. One of the most egregious examples of racist police response was the tragic killing of 19-year-old Solomon Tekah in 2019 which led to violent protests in the country in the summer of that year.**

Full article: <https://www.jpost.com/opinion/article-732574>





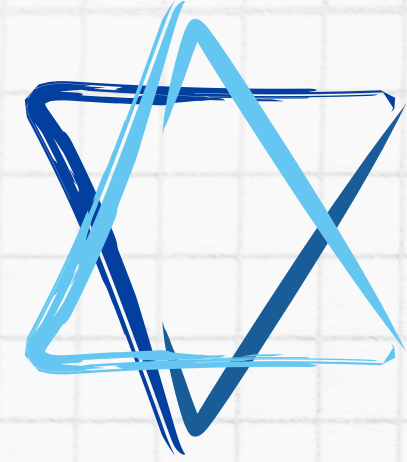
There are some very notable success stories among Ethiopian immigrants and their Israeli-born children. Many outstanding social service and advocacy organizations exist in Israel, led by Israelis of Ethiopian descent and others, but it is not enough to encourage significant social mobility.

One of the most significant examples of success in recent years was MK Pnina Tamano-Shata, who became the aliyah and integration minister in the previous government in 2020. Her ministerial appointment was an opportunity for celebration, particularly in seeing how she then assisted in reuniting Ethiopian families with their relatives, who had been waiting to join them in Israel for years. Alongside the minister are others who are accomplished in politics, the military, education and communications, etc., but they are outliers.

Coincidentally, a team of like-minded philanthropists, aptly named the Changemakers, have embarked on a journey to raise \$10 million to break one of the barriers for Israelis of Ethiopian descent. The money will enable them to attain scholarships... as education remains our people's proven solution for confronting inequality. While the government provides some funding, support has proven inadequate to increase numbers.







A racist Purim video made by religious high school girls in Jerusalem sparked a wave of condemnations when it began circulating widely online on Thursday. In the clip, titled “If the ulpana were Mizrahi,” students can be seen with dark paint on their faces, giving themselves new more Mizrahi-sounding names, and acting according to gross stereotypes of Middle Eastern Jews.

In various sections of the video the girls, sporting a natural look, contrast ostensibly cultured, polite Ashkenazi behavior, with the Mizrahi version — in which they are smeared with dark blotches and appear to act in a base, boorish and rude manner. Purim is often used as a time for satirical and humorous skits and videos, but many thought the clip crossed the line.

Education Minister Yoav Kisch of Likud said he was “horrified to watch the appalling video which shows terrible manifestations of racism that we must not accept in any way — neither in society nor in Israeli educational institutions.”

“It is wretched and outrageous racism, prejudice, contempt and mockery,” Deri added. The Shas leader said he was calling on the heads of the school to understand that “this is not just a video for Purim, it is pure racism against huge populations in Israel. Do everything you can to uproot it from the source.”

