

ISRAEL AT SIXTY

From Modest Beginnings to a Vibrant State

1948–2008

- *web extra* -

More Profiles of Leadership: Israeli Women at the Helm

Courtesy of the Israel Project-Israel at 60

http://www.theisraelproject.org/site/c.hsJPKoPIJpH/b.3918015/k.5BF1/Israel_at_60/apps/nl/newsletter2.asp

DALIA ITZIK: KNESSET SPEAKER



Dalia Itzik
Photo Courtesy of
Israel Ministry of
Foreign Affairs

“The existence of the State of Israel is a miracle, but our democracy is even a greater miracle.”

- Dalia Itzik, from a speech in March 2007 celebrating the Knesset’s 58th anniversary.

Dalia Itzik (b. 1952), speaker of the Knesset, was born in Israel and has served in a variety of positions in Israeli public life, including minister of industry and trade; minister of communications; deputy mayor of Jerusalem in charge of education; and chairwoman of the Labor Party’s legislative panel.

Itzik holds academic degrees in literature and history, education and law. She was elected to the Knesset in 1992 and has chaired the Education and Culture Committee and the Labor-Meimad parliamentary group. She has served as a member on several committees, including the Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Women. In 2006, Itzik was appointed speaker of the Knesset and in 2007 also served as acting president of the State of Israel. Itzik is married and has three children.

YULI TAMIR: MEMBER OF KNESSET, MINISTER OF EDUCATION



Yuli Tamir
Photo Courtesy of
Israel Ministry of
Foreign Affairs
Web site

“We are...a country of refugees, a country of people coming with and bearing in mind a very harsh history. The people of Israel want to enter an era where they can live in peace and know that they have security for them and their children and their grandchildren after them – which is probably true also for the Palestinians.”

- Yuli Tamir (then-Immigrant Absorption Minister), interviewed on The News Hour with Jim Lehrer

Yael “Yuli” Tamir (b.1954) is Israel’s minister of education. She is also a trailblazing intellectual: Tamir is a professor of political philosophy at Tel Aviv University and a founder of *Peace Now*, Israel’s first organized peace movement.

Tamir was born and raised in Israel. After reaching the rank of lieutenant in

the Israel Defense Forces, Tamir earned academic degrees in biology and political philosophy. She has held the position of research fellow at Princeton and Harvard universities and authored several books and articles on liberalism, nationalism, feminism and the theory of rights. Tamir is a member of the Women's Lobby and has chaired Israel's Civil Rights Organization.

Prior to becoming minister of education, Tamir was minister of immigrant absorption and acting minister of science, culture and sports. She is divorced and the mother of two.

NADIA HILOU: MEMBER OF KNESSET



*Nadia Hilou
Photo Courtesy of
Knesset*

“I am particularly conscious of my position and the significance it carries because of my background... I was in the square with my two youngest daughters the night Rabin was killed. It was so emotional ... it provided the final push that convinced me that I had to become active to push change and work for peace.”

- Nadia Hilou, from an interview with The Jerusalem Post in April 2006

Nadia Hilou (b. 1953) is Israel's first Arab-Christian female member of Knesset.

Hilou was born in Israel and received academic degrees in social work from Tel Aviv University. She has been an active force in the Knesset on issues important to women and chairs the

Knesset's Committee on the Rights of the Child and is also a member of its Committee on the Status of Women. Hilou served as deputy chairwoman for Na'amat Women's Organization (2002-2006) and as director of the Division for the Status of Women in the Union of Local Authorities (1997-2006).

Hilou strongly believes in advancing the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and coexistence projects between Jews and Arabs. She is a member of the Knesset's Lobby for Jewish-Arab Coexistence and has called the city of Jaffa, in which she has spent her entire life, a natural coexistence project. Hilou is married and has four children.

RIVKA KARMI- FIRST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT IN ISRAEL



*Rivka Carmi
(Photo: Dani
Machlis)*

“Women come up to me from all walks of life, and write me emails, telling me how proud they are of what I have achieved”.

- Rivka Carmi, President of Ben-Gurion University

“She has been pleased and surprised by the reaction to the fact that she was elected to the job”.

“It is quite something. Women come up to me - not just academics - but from all walks of life, and write me emails, telling me how proud they are of what I have achieved.”

“I feel that I am a role model and I am going to use that position to address issues which I feel are important. I know there are some women who, when they get to top positions, purposely refrain from dealing with gender issues and women's issues, because they don't want to be perceived as too much of a feminist. I don't feel this way. I think I understand the problems that women face - I more than understand them. And I think that along with my other responsibilities, I should really commit myself to improving the situation of women.”

See Full Profile In Israel 21c: [*Just call her 'President Carmi'*](#)