

Ruth Gavison is a Professor Emerita holding the Haim H. Cohn Chair of Human Rights, in the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, a recipient of the Israel Prize in Law, and a member of the Israel Academy of Science and the Humanities. Professor Gavison holds an LLB in Law (*cum laude*), a B.A. in Philosophy and Economics, and an LLM in Law (*summa cum laude*) from the Hebrew University and a D.Phil from the University of Oxford, England.

Her areas of research include the Philosophy of Law, comparative Constitutional Law and processes of constitution making, Human Rights and the Role of Law in Society and the State. Professor Gavison also studies the institutional aspects of the relations between law, society and politics and wrote on the courts' role in rifted democracies and on institutions such as Commissions of Inquiry and the Attorney General, and the meaning and implications of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

In addition to her academic work, Professor Gavison was vigorously involved in numerous public activities: she served as Chairperson of the Board and President of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel; In the Gavison-Medan Covenant she co-authored a framework for coexistence between religious and secular Jews in Israel; She served as senior advisor for the preparation of a constitution by the committee headed by M.K. Michael Eitan; and she is the Founding President of Metzilah: the Center of Zionist, Jewish, Liberal and Humanist Thought.

Professor Gavison served as a member of numerous public committees, among them the Winograd Commission to investigate the Second Lebanon War. In 2013 she was appointed by then Minister of Justice Livni to make recommendations concerning the initiative to legislate the Basic Law: Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish People, and submitted her recommendations in November 2014. She recommended that no such law be enacted, but that the vision of Israel, including its Jewish nature, should be promoted in other ways in the spirit of Israel's Declaration of Independence. In July the law was passed by the Knesset, and Gavison is a central voice in the ensuing debate.