

Israeli Sociological Society (registration no. 580016954)

April 2021

To: VERA - Committee of University Heads, Israel

The Executive Committee of the Israeli Sociological Society (ISS) has stood in solidarity with VERA over the last ten years, sharing its persistent stance in staunch opposition to the change of status of Ariel College into a university center.

ISS Executive Committee is concerned by the recent news published in HaAretz newspaper about the possibility that VERA may abandon its principled fight against the accreditation of Ariel as a university, due to election results and expected pressures from the new government. Recognition of an institution that was founded in violation of international law and the regulations of the Council of Higher Education is a critical subject that need be unrelated to political powerplays. ISS leadership upholds VERA, calling it to maintain its original principled stance.

The principled stance of ISS members is expressed in the Executive Committee decision of October 29, 2010, which was formally approved by the ISS general assembly in its 2011 annual meeting.

“With the change of status of Ariel College into University Center in Ariel, the Israeli Sociological Society declares that it has no intention of holding conferences, workshop days, or educational assemblies in the University Center in Ariel. That said, since membership in the Israeli Sociological Society is voluntary and on a

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personal rather than institutional basis, faculty from the University Center in Ariel can be members of the Society.”

ISS Executive Committee calls on VERA to maintain its determined stance in opposition to this drastic change in status.

Professor Lev Grinberg

ISS President

