



THE PR OFFICE ^[PRO]

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Publication: Jewish Telegraph (Manchester)
Date: 29.06.18



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Israel . . . even
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The government-sponsored law is designed to help *agunot* — “chained” women who have been refused a *get* and cannot remarry under Jewish law.

Under the law, Israel could bar entry to men who refuse to grant their wives a *get* — or traditional Jewish divorce document.

State rabbinical courts will be able to impose sanctions against recalcitrant husbands who do manage to enter the country — including jail time.

The law allows the rabbinical courts to hear a case in which neither spouse is Israeli if three conditions are met. They are:

- THAT there is no rabbinical court where the couple lives that can hear the case.
- THE couple has not appeared in front of a rabbinical court for four months.
- THE husband refuses to

Help for agunot – recalcitrant husbands may be barred from entering country

give the religious divorce after a Diaspora rabbinical court rules that he must do so and attempted to enforce the decision.

The new law does not allow the rabbinical court to deal with any other divorce-related issues such as child support payments.

It also states that Israeli rabbinical courts are not superior to Diaspora rabbinical courts.

Under Jewish law, a marriage cannot be dissolved unless the man consents to a *get*.

Rabbinical courts cannot force a man to give his wife a *get*, but they can impose harsh punishments and public shaming on someone the judges determine is unjustly withhold-

ing a *get* and turning the women into an *aguna*.

Agunot are not allowed to remarry under Jewish law, and any children they have with a new husband in a civil marriage are considered illegitimate.

The new law reportedly is an outgrowth of a request by the Conference of European Rabbis to the Israeli rabbinate to find a solution for Jewish divorce cases involving non-Israeli Jewish men.

“This is a huge step,” said Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis.

“It is my fervent prayer that the new law will pave the way to hope for women who seek to live their life free of the shackles of an unwanted and dysfunctional marriage.

“Refusal of a *get* is a form of domestic violence and the global Jewish community must act to protect its women.

“Israel is the only country whose rabbinical courts have the power to pressure recalcitrant husbands.

“The new law will ensure that all men, regardless of their citizenship, feel the force of disgust from the global Jewish community.”





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Date: 05.07.18

**JEWISH
News**
BRITAIN'S BIGGEST JEWISH NEWSPAPER

Israel gets tough on *gets*

Leading rabbis this week welcomed an Israeli decision to ban Jewish men who refuse to give their wives a religious divorce, and to detain them as they cross into Israel.

The reaction followed the passing of a new law by the Israeli Knesset to bar from entry men who refuse to grant a religious divorce – or *get* – to their wives following a civil divorce, leaving them unable to marry again according to Jewish law.

In recent years, Europe's top rabbis have taken up the case of the women, who are



often referred to as *agunot*, or “chained”, describing men’s repeated refusal to grant a *get* as a form of “domestic violence”.

Now any man identified by

a diaspora rabbinical court as a “recalcitrant husband” can be detained upon arrival in Israel, and can be forced to attend divorce proceedings.

The rabbis and Israeli

authorities hope that detention on entering Israel will act as a deterrent to the men.

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt, president of the Conference of European Rabbis, whose organisation pushed for the law, said: “It is my fervent prayer that the new law will pave the way to hope for women who seek to live their life free of the shackles of an unwanted and dysfunctional marriage.

“*Get* refusal is a form of domestic violence and the global Jewish community must act to protect its women.”

