

PRIDE OR PREJUDICE?

This year's Jerusalem Pride marked a year since the murder of 16 year-old Shira Banki z"l. In an amazing show of solidarity from across Israel's communities, **25,000** people joined the march, demonstrating their support for the principles of [freedom of expression, the dignity of all human beings, and tolerance](#). The run-up to Pride events across Israel, however, was not without its challenges...

HAIFA

June 2016: [Largest Haifa Pride](#) parade with **3,000** participants

TEL AVIV

April 2016: [Activists call to cancel Pride](#) after Tourism Ministry announces 11 million NIS campaign to attract tourists to Pride, while **State funding for local LGBTQ orgs only amounts to 1.5 million NIS**

June 2016: [Tel Aviv Pride](#) attracts **200,000**

ASHDOD

June 2016: **100s** attend [Ashdod Pride](#)

BE'ER SHEVA

June 2016: Police decide to [divert the march](#) from Be'er Sheva's main street citing security & concerns that the march would **'deeply hurt religious sentiments'**

- Organisers appeal the decision, but their petition to the High Court is [rejected](#)
- In response, [organisers cancel the march](#) & instead [protest outside Be'er Sheva city hall](#)
- **2,000** join the protest

"In 2016, it is not logical to relegate the gay community to a pride parade on a side route and not on the city's main streets."

— Association for Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) on High Court decision

JERUSALEM

July 2005: **Yishai Schlissel** wounds **6** Pride marchers

July 2015: Schlissel attacks Pride marchers again. **16 year-old Shira Banki** dies of her stabbing wounds

July 2016: Shira's parents **urge Israelis to march** at 2016 Jerusalem Pride

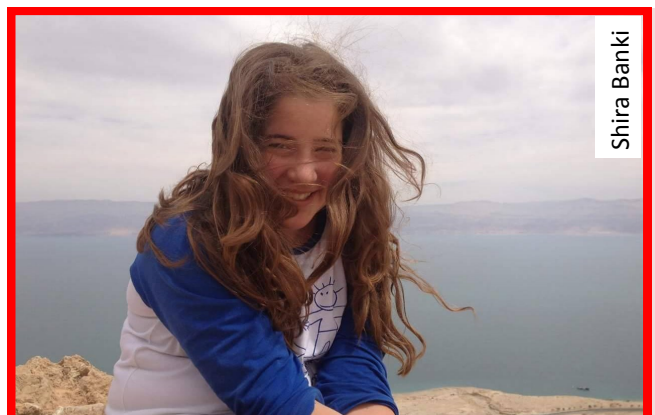
● **Rabbi Yigal Levinstein** (Director of a pre-military academy) [calls LGBTQ people "perverts"](#)

● **Various prominent** Orthodox rabbis **criticise** R' Levinstein's statement

● **250 Israeli rabbis publicly back** R' Levinstein

● **Nir Barkat, Jerusalem Mayor, announces** that he will not attend Pride since the **march offends the ultra-Orthodox**, but commits public resources for marchers' security

July 2016: 25,000 people (over 4 times as many as last year), march in Jerusalem Pride



Shira Banki

"Our silence in the face of all of the extremists & inciters, & our allowance of degrading & violent public discourse, whether it stems from fear and whether it stems from apathy or alienation, harms our quality of life & sometimes also takes lives."

— Shira's parents, Uri & Mika Banki, Jerusalem Pride 2016