



Suitability of Women for Leadership Positions: What Does the Israeli Public Think?

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Despite formal commitment to gender equality, male dominance in leadership positions still exists in Israel – first and foremost in the security sector.

The Institute for Liberty and Responsibility at Reichman University sought to understand to what extent the Israeli public is committed to gender equality in senior leadership positions. Do Israelis believe in equal representation for men and women, or do they think men are more suitable for leadership positions? In a survey conducted on January 11-13, 2026 among a representative sample of 810 respondents, we presented participants with ten senior positions and asked them to indicate whether a man is more suitable for the job, whether a woman is more suitable for the job, or whether both genders are equally suitable.

For five of the positions, we found an egalitarian perception. These are the positions of Minister of Foreign Affairs, President of the Supreme Court, Attorney General, Governor of the Bank of Israel, and mayor. A large majority of over 70% of Israelis believe that men and women are equally suitable for these jobs, and the minority showing a preference is similarly divided between preferring a man for the job and preferring a woman.

However, regarding other positions, the egalitarian perception weakens. In these positions, a lower percentage of Israelis see equal suitability for both genders, and more Israelis express a preference for a man over a woman. These positions include the Prime Minister as well as three security positions: Minister of Defense, Police Commissioner, and Head of the Shin Bet (Israeli Security Agency).

The only position where we found a tendency toward women is Minister of Education. 69% of Israelis believe that men and women are similarly suitable for this job; however, more believe that a woman is suitable for the position (25%) compared to a man (3%).

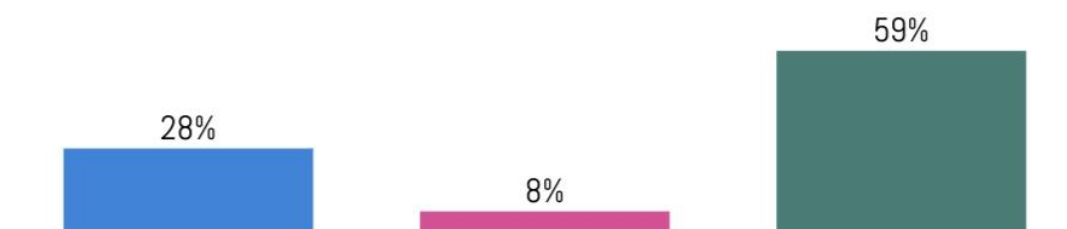
The following charts show Israelis' attitudes regarding the suitability of men and women for each of the positions. First, the positions where the public displays a weaker egalitarian perception are presented, followed by the positions where Israelis show a more egalitarian perception between the genders.

From an optimistic perspective, our data show that in all positions, including security ones, a majority or significant minority of Israelis believe that both genders are equally suitable. This indicates that a considerable portion of the public has broken free from gender stereotypes.

On the pessimistic side, we find that in certain areas, Israelis are still captive to gender stereotypes: men are preferable in security roles, and women are suitable for education roles. Even after women have broken barriers and reached combat and command positions, Israelis still identify the fighter, the commander, the security decision-maker – with the man. For the sake of equality – and for the sake of national security – this way of thinking must change.

Who do you think is more suitable to serve as Prime Minister of Israel?

Man Woman Both Genders

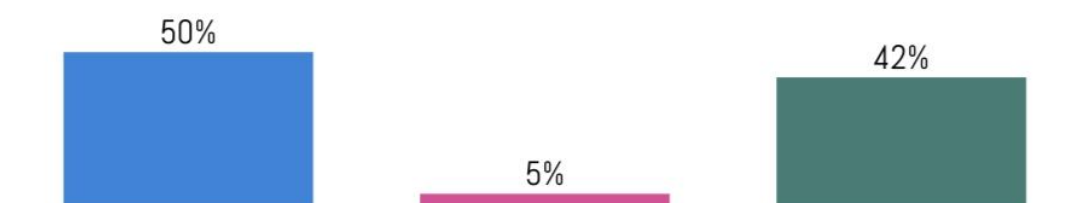


The survey was conducted for the Institute for Liberty and Responsibility between January 11–13, 2026, by iPanel among 810 respondents (658 Jews and 152 Arabs). The data do not include respondents who answered "Don't know."

Figure 1. Suitability for the position of prime minister

Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as Minister of Defense?

Man Woman Both Genders

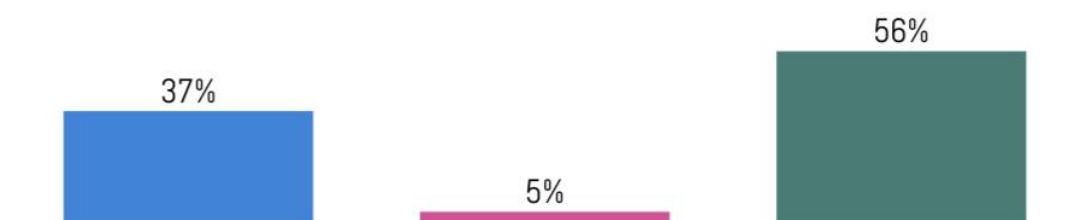


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Figure 2. Suitability for the position of minister of defense

Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as Commissioner of the Israel Police?

Man Woman Both Genders

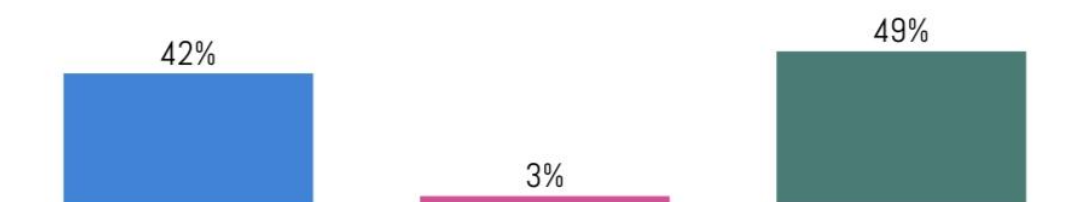


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Figure 3. Suitability for the position of police commissioner

Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as the head of the Shin Bet?

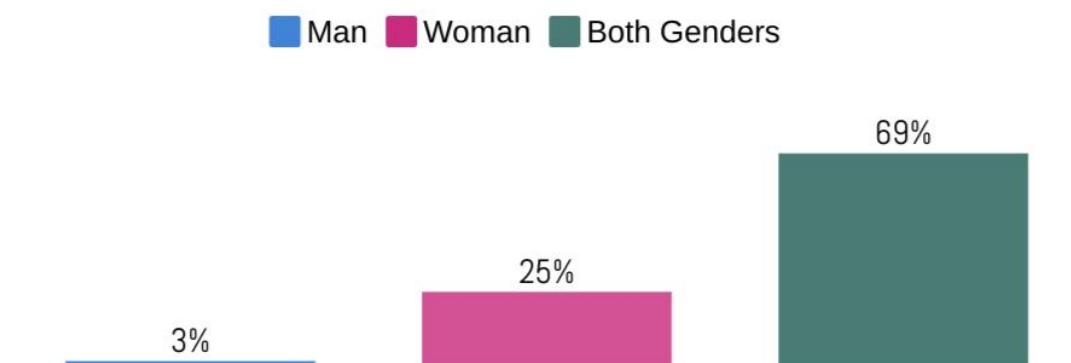
Man Woman Both Genders



The survey was conducted for the Institute for Liberty and Responsibility between January 11–13, 2026, by iPanel among 810 respondents (658 Jews and 152 Arabs). The data do not include respondents who answered "Don't know."

Figure 4. Suitability for the position of Head of the Shin Bet (Israeli Security Agency)

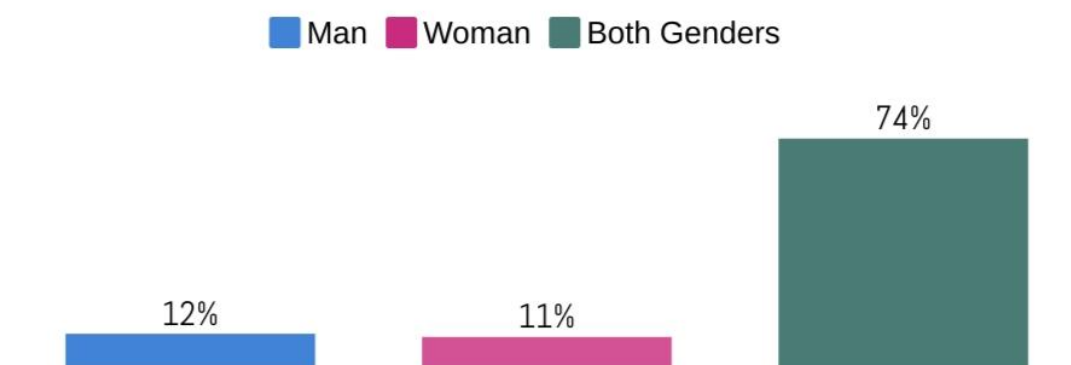
Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as Minister of Education?



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Figure 5. Suitability for the position of minister of education

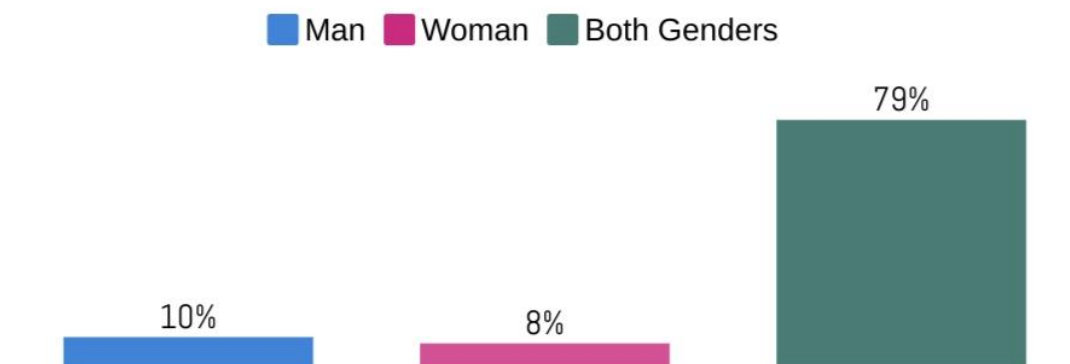
Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as Minister of Foreign Affairs?



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Figure 6. Suitability for the position of minister of foreign affairs

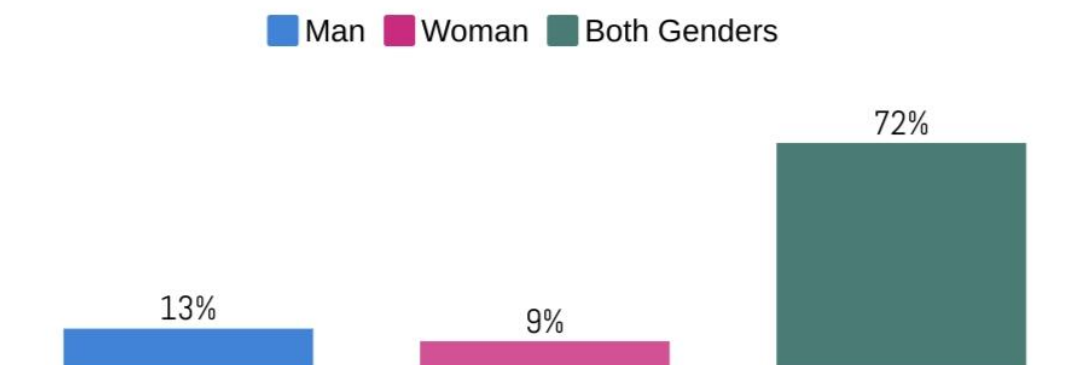
Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as President of the Supreme Court of Israel?



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Figure 7. Suitability for the position of President of the Supreme Court

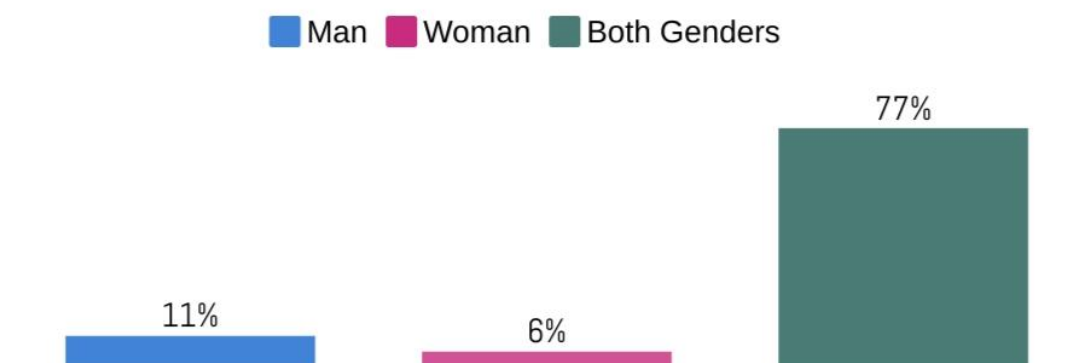
Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as Attorney General of Israel?



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Figure 8. Suitability for the position of Attorney General

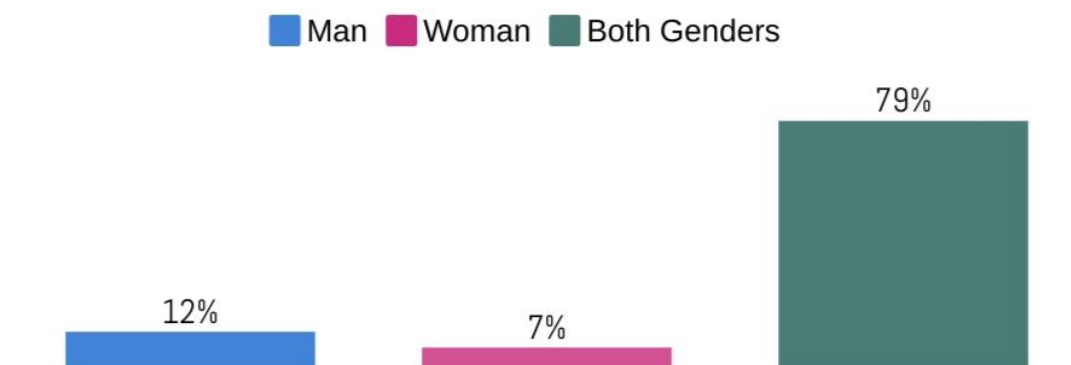
Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as Governor of the Bank of Israel?



The survey was conducted for the Institute for Liberty and Responsibility between January 11–13, 2026, by iPanel among 810 respondents (658 Jews and 152 Arabs). The data do not include respondents who answered "Don't know."

Figure 9. Suitability for the position of Governor of the Bank of Israel

Who, in your opinion, is more suitable to serve as Mayor?



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Figure 10. Suitability for the position of mayor



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