

For the New Year: two special reports from The Monitor Project

To mark the start of the new year, we are happy to present two special projects that we carried out in recent months, as part of The Monitor project, to assess the implementation of Government policy.

Both projects dealt with issues of great importance to society, and we tracked the way the Government has implemented the recommendations of various committees. These projects were widely reported in the media, and gave both the Government and the Israeli public a picture of areas where progress was made and matters that still require attention.

Seven years after the Social Protest – special Monitor report on implementation of the Trachtenberg Committee recommendations

Marking seven years from the huge social protest in the summer of 2011 and the publication of the Trachtenberg Committee report on the events, the Center published the first report of its kind, which presents an updated and detailed picture of the situation with respect to the implementation of each of the Committee's recommendations.

The report covers all 165 recommendations, in all areas, and examines whether they were adopted as official policy (either directly or indirectly or later), and how many of them have actually been applied.

The bottom line: we found that 128 of the recommendations (78%) were fully adopted as official policy and became Government resolutions, laws or State policy documents. 13 recommendations were partially adopted, and 24 recommendations were not adopted.

An examination of actual implementation of the recommendations gives a slightly different picture: only 44% were fully realized, 34% were partially realized, and no action was taken on 22%.

A reminder – what happened in 2011?

In a series of protests and demonstrations all over the country during the summer of 2011, which culminated in the "Million Person March", the Israeli public demanded a reduction in the cost of living and greater social equality. The events were soon being referred to as "the social protest".

In response to the protracted protests and the public demands, the 32nd Government appointed a commission to look at socioeconomic change, the Trachtenberg Committee, headed by Professor Emanuel Trachtenberg. The Committee was asked to submit recommendations on the following issues: changes in priorities in order to reduce the economic burden on Israeli citizens, changes in taxation, broader access to social services, increasing competitiveness and efficiency in the economy with the aim of reducing prices, and outlining steps for a housing plan.

In a summary report published in September 2011, the Trachtenberg Committee set out 165 recommendations covering areas such as education, housing, taxation, decentralization, price reductions, and more.

The Committee's report, which was approved in October 2011, gained the public support of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and soon after its publication, the Government passed 12 resolutions which adopted dozens of the Committee's recommendations as official policy. Over the years, various other recommendations have been adopted in Government resolutions and in legislative amendments.

Examples of Committee recommendations that were adopted – and not implemented:

Supervision of day care centers – legislation on day care center supervision has yet to be completed.

Supervision and enforcement of school book prices.

Greater competition in public transport.

Obliging monopolies to publish financial reports (like public companies).

Greater supervision of student attendance in Ultra-Orthodox Yeshivas and institutions (to confirm eligibility for exemption from military service).

To read the full report.

To read an article on the report findings published in Globes newspaper on 26 September 2018.

Two years since the Palmor Committee report on combatting racism against immigrants from Ethiopia – special Monitor report

In August 2016 the Government passed a resolution which adopted the recommendations of the Palmor Committee report on **combatting racism against immigrants from Ethiopia**.

In this resolution, the Government ratified many recommendations which sought to eradicate racism and discrimination against this population. The recommendations referred to a long list of Government ministries and areas of activity, including the establishment of new units and mechanisms (the Anti-Racism Unit in the Ministry of Justice, periodic reporting obligations, special appointments in ministries, and more), plus reinforcing and improving the activity of existing units (Ministry of Education programs, teacher training, surveys of State employees, the work of the Equal Rights at Work Commission, and more).

To mark the passage of two years since the Government resolution, the Citizens Empowerment Center published a special Monitor report which shows only partial implementation of the resolution.

On one hand, we found that significant parts of the resolution were indeed promoted, with the emphasis on the work of the Ministry of Justice and the Attorney General, establishment of a unit to coordinate the struggle against racism in the Ministry of Justice and its activity.

On the other hand, many of the guidelines relating to areas of responsibility outside these ministries have been only partially implemented, or completely ignored – this applies to most of the activities assigned to the Ministries of Education and Culture, and some of the activities assigned to the Civil Service Commission.

The full report was submitted to all the relevant ministries, and the results published in Yediot Aharonot at the end of July 2018.

To read the full report.

To read the article in Yediot Aharonot.

In the coming year, we will continue to examine important issues and monitor the implementation of resolutions and recommendations that affect the lives of Israeli citizens.