

The CEO of Pitchon-Lev, Eli Cohen applauds the Members of Israel Parliament, the Knesset, in unanimously passing the law to establish the **National Authority for the Fight against Poverty** (the Authority) on Wednesday 22 February 2023.

A broad coalition of Members of Knesset from the Right, Left and the Center spoke up in support of the Law before it passed its first reading and was referred to the Labor and Welfare Committee. Members of Knesset from the entire political spectrum highlighted and acknowledged Pitchon-Lev's key role in the process.

This is the culmination of years of work by Pitchon-Lev, maintaining the pressure on Israeli Governments of all parties throughout the years: raising the basic issues of poverty, and speaking up for those who are unable to speak on their own behalf.

At every opportunity, Pitchon-Lev has focussed the Government's attention on the complex issue of poverty and on narrowing the widening gaps in Israeli society. Eli Cohen highlighted that "Pitchon-Lev is apolitical and works with all parties in Israel. Israel is known as the 'Start-Up' nation. Pitchon-Lev works to benefit those who would otherwise be the 'Left-Behind' nation'."

Pitchon-Lev drafted the legislation that was initially tabled in the Knesset in 2015, when it was first discussed by the Social Welfare Committee.

Pitchon-Lev is eager to work with the responsible Ministry in the establishment of the Authority whose tasks include:

- Developing a multi-year plan to reduce poverty with annual implementation plans;
- Coordinating efforts within and between government ministries, local authorities, schools and other bodies;
- Initiating public awareness activities for families and individuals on economic planning, financial literacy and wise consumption;
- Establishing and managing a national information and research center into the field of poverty and its alleviation; and
- Maintaining contact with international bodies working to fight against poverty.

Eli Cohen, Pitchon-Lev's CEO said "Importantly the Authority's accountability, oversight and reporting obligations are included in the legislation.

After so many years of working on the legislation, I would like to thank all those Members of Knesset of all parties who helped us in this essential task. We are excited to work with all governments in this endeavor.

I would also like to thank those who supported Pitchon-Lev to bring this law into being. From the staff of Pitchon-Lev and to the volunteers, who are fighting the battle against poverty in the front-line every day.

The eradication of poverty is a universal fight that we are now one step closer to combating.

This legislation is a first step. The battle in the war against poverty continues every day."

