



Culture and Arts Administration – Libraries and Literature Department

B”H

7 Cheshvan 5787

18 October 2026

To

Mr. Sharon Gabay

Re: Appreciation and esteem for the photography book and documentary project “Jerusalemites”

Dear Mr. Gabay,

The Culture and Arts Administration of the Ministry of Culture and Sport wishes to express its deep appreciation for your artistic work over many years and for your unique contribution to documenting the life of Jerusalem, as expressed in the photography book and documentary project “Jerusalemites”.

Over fifteen years of photographing, wandering and observing in the streets of the city, you devoted your work to documenting the many faces of Jerusalem and the human encounter that takes place in it every day. Through the lens of the camera you succeeded in capturing the complexity, the diversity and the human richness that characterize the city, and in presenting them with a direct, sensitive and non-judgmental gaze. Out of more than one and a half million photographs you shaped a work of broad scope, which gives rich visual expression to the life of the city, to its residents and to the stories that make up the fabric of its life.

Your book “Jerusalemites” is a work of artistic, cultural and documentary value. It offers an in-depth view of Jerusalem not only as an urban and historical space, but first and foremost as a living city that carries within it diverse communities, identities, traditions and human stories. Through observation of the everyday moments and the human encounters that shape the life of the city, you give presence to the people and the voices that make up its character, and preserve in your photographs a meaningful record of its changing reality.

The trilingual edition of the book, in Hebrew, Arabic and English, is of particular importance in making the work accessible to diverse audiences in Israel and around the world. This choice allows the photographed story of Jerusalem to cross linguistic and cultural boundaries, and gives the project a further dimension of exposure, acquaintance and deeper understanding of the human and cultural mosaic that characterizes the city.

The Culture and Arts Administration attaches great importance to artistic work that documents Israeli society in its many faces, preserves the stories of individuals and communities and enriches our cultural heritage. The “Jerusalemites” project expresses the importance of artistic documentation and the power of photography to illuminate a complex reality, to provoke thought and to leave a visual testimony of value for generations to come.

For your dedication, for the perseverance and artistic commitment you have shown over the years, and for your contribution to documenting the life of Jerusalem, we wish to express our appreciation and esteem. Your work gives its viewers an opportunity to observe the city and its residents up close, and adds a meaningful layer to the cultural and human documentation of Israel’s capital.

We wish you continued fruitful and meaningful creative work, which will go on enriching the world of art and culture in Israel and arousing interest, thought and inspiration.



Culture and Arts Administration – Libraries and Literature Department

With blessings and great appreciation,

[signed]

Galia Kna'ani – Head of the Libraries Division

Ministry of Culture and Sport

Copies:

Mr. Miki Makhoulf Zohar – Minister of Culture and Sport

Mr. Kfir Cohen – Director General, Ministry of Culture and Sport

Mr. Ran Shapira – Head of the Culture and Arts Administration

Mr. Shavit Ben-Arie – Director, Senior Division for Culture, Heritage and Society