



נשיא המדינה
رئيس الدولة
THE PRESIDENT

Jerusalem, 23 Av 5786
06 August 2026

To

Mr. Sharon Gabay

Photographer of the book “Jerusalemites”

Dear Sharon,

I was delighted, impressed and deeply moved to look through your magnificent and exceptional book of photographs: “Jerusalemites”.

This is not an “ordinary” book in any sense, but a comprehensive album, rich and magnificent in its beauty, the fruit of your work over many years. The mosaic of photographs and portraits that gaze out from its pages reflects a rare and many-hued human richness that only Jerusalem can offer in its streets and its alleyways.

Your quite exceptional talent, your good and discerning eye, your patience, your devotion and above all your love for Jerusalem and for its people are evident in every frame, and it is these that gave rise to a book unique of its kind — captivating to the eye and to the heart — presenting to the reader a human and moving aspect of Israel’s multicultural capital, from singular angles and with uncommon quality.

The poet and son of the city, Yehuda Amichai, described her thus:

“Jerusalem is a port city on the shore of eternity.
The Temple Mount is a great ship, a magnificent pleasure vessel.
From the portholes of her Western Wall cheerful saints look out, travellers.
Hasidim on the quay wave farewell,
shouting hurrah, till we meet again.
She is always arriving, always setting sail.”

The wealth of your captivating photographs, chosen with care out of a great many more, illustrates well and gives life to these descriptions of Jerusalem in Amichai’s words, and to the singular movement forever taking place within her.

Thank you for the immense investment, and for sharing with us your talent and your passion for photographing and documenting the pulse of Jerusalem life. The book and its photographs are an everlasting memento of the life of the one and only city; of an era, and of the cultures, communities and peoples that she gathers into herself with love.

I wish you continued fruitful and rewarding work. Go from strength to strength.

In friendship and appreciation,

[signed]

Isaac Herzog

President of the State of Israel