JUDAISM AND HUMAN RIGHTS:
A PANEL DISCUSSION

THE LEONARD AND BEA DIENER INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LAW
THE CENTER FOR JEWISH LAW AND CONTEMPORARY CIVILIZATION
THE ISRAEL DEMOCRACY INSTITUTE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28
6 PM
CARDOZO SCHOOL OF LAW
MOOT COURT ROOM
NEW YORK, NY
One of the outstanding features of the modern world is the many identities of individuals, communities and sometimes even states—a situation that is both enriching and challenging. In many cases, these identities complicate the relationship between religion and a commitment to the values of Western liberalism.

Many Jews in the modern world live in a state of cultural duality. As individuals and communities, they draw from the wellsprings of both Jewish tradition and Western liberal thought. In theory and in practice, they embrace both their Jewish identity (as an expression of national, cultural and religious uniqueness) and their liberal democratic identity. Yet the Jewish religious and political traditions, by their very nature, often contain elements of particularity and exclusion. The tension between religious identity and a commitment to the values of Western liberalism has important ramifications for human rights discourse.

This tension has a profound influence on the identity of the State of Israel. In a country where questions of human rights and exclusion of minorities are more existential and less theoretical than in many other Western nations, the question of the complex relationship between human rights and the Jewish tradition is especially timely.

Join us for a panel discussion that will explore human rights discourse in Jewish tradition and thought.

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