**The Israelis relationship with the Jewish community in Berlin**

In Berlin, as in any other large city, where a Jewish community exists, there are probably also various institutions connected to the community. The Community Centre of the Jewish congregation of Berlin was inaugurated in 1959.

The Jewish "Volkshochschule" (JVHS), an institution dedicated to adult education, is on the premises. It organizes lectures, presentations of book releases, workshops, language courses (Hebrew, Yiddish, German for Immigrants), as well as a range of cultural activities, such as the Jewish Film Festival, which is held in June, once a year. Furthermore, three program leaflets are published each year. The JVHS is a significant cultural institution in Jewish life in Berlin.

Many Israelis in Berlin do not feel connected to the Jewish community, and according to the research's results, the relationships are poor at best.

In the interviews it has become clear that this is a large and vast subject of controversy. There are various perspectives that involve sensitive issues, such as, budget and grants given by the German government. Yet, some feel that the money is not shared evenly among all the Jews living in Berlin. The bottom line is that the Israelis feel excluded from the Jewish community in Berlin.

This claim is being expressed in S.R interview,

*“We are not part of the Jewish community in Berlin, I don’t think there is a community that we, the Israelis, belongs to. Maybe we are the first “Online” community. The Germans believe that all the Jews are connected in Berlin, they are so wrong, they are too afraid to touch the budget of the Jewish community and split it between the Israelis and the institutes... but they really should”.*

**Figure no. 5 –** Israeli immigrants receiving services from the Jewish community in Berlin.

Another evidence to the alienation between the Israelis in Berlin and the Jewish community is in N.T interview

*“When I arrived in Berlin I started to look for some help with the Visa and finding a place to rent, I called the Jewish community center and I got a very cold response and zero help, later on my friends told me that the Jewish community institutes are relevant only if you have children and you need a school or if you are religious and some times in the holidays, that’s is a pity because they are taking the whole budget for the Jewish in Berlin although they don’t represent us, the Israelis”.*

According to B.H there is no contact between the Israelis and the Jewish community

*“It is quite weird for someone who lived in Israel to find out that the Jewish community in Berlin is ignoring almost 6,000 Israelis living in the city. I actually don’t know why, maybe it is because they think we will return to Israel after a period of time and they think that we are not worth investing in, or maybe it is because they are more religious and most of the Israelis living here are not. The sad truth is that if you need something other than attending a holiday prayer, you should be able to manage it on your own”.*

After examining the different immigration drivers and comparing them to the relationship between the Jewish community and the Israelis, it seems that the Israelis who immigrated out of economic reasons tend to consume more services provided by the Jewish community (mainly in education). Israelis who immigrated out of political reasons tend to be the exact opposite. They tend to differentiate themselves from the Jewish community, especially when it comes to religious-related services.

This might provide a better understanding that the Israelis in Berlin are not so much alike and do not act as a unified Israeli-community.

More evidence to that claim can be found in A.H interview

*"...For those (Israelis) who are in Berlin because they want an easier life, the Jewish community is just another option to get money or services from, just like the money and services they get from the Germans. But for those, and I am considering myself as one, who left Israel for Political reasons, the Jewish community offers us nothing and we do not want anything to do with it. If I had wanted to celebrate the holidays or pray, I would have stayed in Israel. There are some who send their kids to the community school or kindergarten, I guess it saves them money and makes them feel they are still connected to Hebrew and Israel. For me it is not relevant”*

E.B is stating another perspective in the interview.

*"I send my children to the activities of the community from time to time, I think it is good that there is such an option, I don’t believe other immigrates have such a privilege… If the German government wants a piece of advice, in my opinion it should not acknowledge the Israelis as a different community, it just causes us to fight with each other over the money. The Israelis are so different from one another, maybe because we left Israel…”*

**Figure no. 6 –** Correlation between immigration drivers and the type of connection to the Jewish community (The bigger have more connection).