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Letter of recommendation for Ms. Silvana Kandel Lamdan

Dear members of the Memorial Foundation,

It is my great pleasure to write warm words of recommendation for my Ph.D. student, Ms. Silvana Kandel Lamdan. For more than a year, Ms. Lamdan has conducted her Ph.D. research under my supervision with no small amount of success. Her research proposal has been accepted, and she has already presented many of her findings at international conferences and workshops in Europe and in Israel, invariably eliciting interest in her innovative research topic: “The Jewish Elements in Latin American Liberation Theology.” Ms. Lamdan is particularly suited to pioneer this exciting new line of inquiry. Having immigrated to Israel from Argentina and served for several years as the pedagogical director of the Tali Amlat project, writing educational material for Latin American Jewish schools, her knowledge of the history and culture of Latin America is extensive. Furthermore, since her arrival in Israel, Ms. Lamdan has received a rigorous education in Jewish studies – as well as in general philosophy, theology, and history – bringing to her studies the very best knowledge and methodologies that Israeli academia has to offer.

Ms. Kandel Lamdan’s current research – as well as her projects for the future – certainly hold promise. The story she is writing has yet to be told: the extensive contacts and relationships linking the founding fathers of liberation theology to modern Jewish thought and the State of Israel from the 1950s to the 1970s. Ms. Lamdan has already made substantial discoveries in her documentary research, shedding new light on the significant role played by Jewish and Israeli thought in the formation of liberation theology. To continue her research, Ms. Lamdan requires several research trips to Europe, as well as to Argentina and Mexico, and the generous grant offered by the Memorial Foundation could prove invaluable to this end. Ms. Lamdan’s research has not only my great esteem, but also that of many international scholars who have invited her to give talks and to submit articles to prestigious academic journals in Europe and in the United States. These scholars immediately realized the great importance of Ms. Lamdan’s research – its potential to open up entirely new avenues into the study of Jewish and Catholic intellectual history in Israel, Europe and Latin America during the twentieth century and its promise to offer new dialogical perspectives on Jewish intellectual history in general.

For these reasons and many others, I strongly recommend Ms. Kandel Lamdan for the Memorial Foundation’s doctoral scholarship.

With my best regards,