November 17, 2021

For:

Re: Dr. Liram Koblentz-Stenzler - letter of recommendation for a postdoctoral associate position

Dear Committee Members,

It is with great esteem and enthusiasm that I write to recommend Dr. Liram Koblentz-Stenzler for a position with the Belfer Center Program. I have known Liram for many years and have had the pleasure of working with her as her Ph.D. dissertation advisor.

Liram’s thoughtful and well-argued dissertation explores the inherent tension confronted by liberal democracies between the need to protect their citizens from terror and guerilla attacks and their obligation to preserve the fundamental freedom, civil rights and laws underpinning the democratic edifice.

Liram’s dissertation is interdisciplinary, drawing from the academic fields of security, morality, military history, military strategy, and international law. It contributes to the debate about the shift from currently outmoded conventional warfare to the new type of combat confronting the world: asymmetrical warfare. The significant contribution of her work is its development of a universal moral and ethical code for democratic states fighting these terror and guerilla organizations. This original code functions as an operative instrument for defining realistic requirements that can help states maintain their military effectiveness while increasing the legitimacy of their actions in the eyes of the international community, both during and after combat.

Liram was awarded a prize for her unique research and contribution to the field of terrorism on behalf of the Inbar Fund and the IDF’s Intelligence Heritage and Commemoration Center.

In my opinion, the research Liram now intends to engage in, focusing on the study of the inter-relations between far-right party and non-party collective actors and the de-radicalization models that she wishes to develop are unique and can assist governments and security forces around the world.

I follow Liram's professional and meticulous work as head of the Global Far-Right Extremism Desk at the Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) at Reichman University, and I am certain that the research she is interested in conducting will be comprehensive, thorough and unique. Her ongoing work at the Institute in monitoring encrypted and unencrypted channels used by far-right activists with the assistance of interns who are fluent in multiple languages, her ability to discern the most prominent trends and the research she conducts on this basis is astonishing. The research she is currently conducting is attracting global interest. She often points to trends that have not yet been highlighted, as in her op-ed published before the events of January 6 arguing that the events were likely to be violent and should be prepared for.

Furthermore, I have been impressed by the content she provides in the courses she teaches and the lectures she gives to diverse audiences. I have also noted the way in which she coordinates and leads think tanks on various subjects related to terrorism and the far right in the framework of the ICT.

Liram has excellent analytical skills, an agreeable nature and an open-minded acceptance of new ideas. All these make her a most worthy Postdoctoral Associate.

I have no doubt whatsoever that your institute will benefit greatly from her research agenda and her outstanding personal qualities. She will undoubtedly serve the Fox Academic Director and Program fellows well.

Sincerely,