

נשיא המדינה עיש וلدولة THE PRESIDENT Jerusalem, March 24, 2025

Mr. Sam Zussman
Chairman, Board of Directors
Friends of IRGUN NECHEI TZAHAL

Dear Sam,

I am pleased to acknowledge herein the contribution of Friends of Irgun Nechei Tzahal to Israel's disabled veterans specifically and to Israel's broader national story, more broadly.

There are few people in Israeli society for whom the price of Jewish statehood is as stark and as uncompromising as for IDF soldiers wounded in service. For these individuals, who carry on their bodies and minds the mark of their sacrifice, every moment of their lives is a form of tribute to protecting Jewish nationhood and the Jewish nation state.

Since the brutal massacre of Israeli communities on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, this truth has only been amplified. Many thousands of soldiers, from across the country and the world, left everything at first call, and showed up with remarkable clarity and selflessness, to protect and defend their country and their fellow citizens in the wake of the attack. The costs borne by those wounded in action, in physical and emotional wellbeing alike, are profound, protracted, and broad.

And while we, as a society and as a people, owe them a debt of gratitude that can never truly be repaid, there is no question that our moral duties compel us to do whatever we can to try to offer support. I am grateful to the organization dedicated to supporting wounded veterans in Israel, Irgun Nechei Tzahal, for acting on behalf of all of us in this regard. It is evident that the myriad ways disabled IDF soldiers are offered support through the organization's efforts contribute directly to their physical and mental wellbeing. But no less powerful is the collective statement toward these veterans reflected in this activity, which affirms that their sacrifice is recognized, valued, and honored, within Israel and throughout the Jewish world.

My friends, your support for Israel's wounded warriors is evidence of the ties of peoplehood that justify the sacrifice of our soldiers; a true testament to the bonds that keep us whole.

I share hopes that we have many opportunities to celebrate our unique ties, and relay, as well, my gratitude for everything you do to nourish them through your dedication and support for Israel.

Sincerely yours,

Isaac Herzog

President of the State of Israel