

Israel and Golda Koschitzky
Centre for Jewish Studies and
Osgoode Hall Law School Present

LGBTQ JEWISH AND DEMOCRATIC?

A Lecture by
ASSAF WEISS

Opening remarks by Prof. **BENJAMIN GEVA**

On July 2018, 100,000 people rallied together at Rabin Square in Tel-Aviv Jaffa for the biggest LGBTQ protest in Israel's history. The protestors were outraged over the recent vote in the Israeli Parliament—the Knesset—not to end the 22-years long discrimination against gay couples under Israel's Surrogacy Act. Israel is also known as a welcoming country for LGBTQ people where the LGBTQ community enjoys many rights, especially in comparison to its neighbours in the Middle East. This paradox exists in Israel which is both Jewish and Democratic. Israel's constitutional definition of "Jewish and Democratic" presents a unique challenge for the Israeli LGBTQ community: on the one hand, Israel is a democracy that should promote full equality to all of its citizens. On the other hand, Israel is also a Jewish state, that has religious laws governing significant aspects of its citizens' lives.

Mon Oct 22, 2018
10:00-12:00

Room: Ignat Kaneff
Building 2027
York University

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ASSAF WEISS

Former Senior Advisor to Israel's Minister of Health and a Director of Operations at the American Jewish Congress, and Secretary of the GLBT-Jewish World Congress. During his Master's studies at Columbia Law School, Assaf served as a board member for Students Supporting Israel. Assaf is the recipient of the honourable E. David Fischman scholarship. During 2018, Assaf was listed as one of the leading LGBTQ lawyers in Israel.