

Prof. Ruth Gavison – CV

November 2015

Ruth Gavison is a Professor Emerita holding the Haim H. Cohn Chair of Human Rights, in the Faculty of Law of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. She was born in Jerusalem in 1945, and is a graduate of the Hebrew Reali School in Haifa (Science Division). She spent her IDF service in the Nachal (mostly as a counsellor in the Hebrew Scouts movement). Professor Gavison holds an LLB in Law (*cum laude*), a B.A. in Philosophy and Economics, and an LLM in Law (*summa cum laude*) from the Hebrew University and a D.Phil from the University of Oxford, England.

Her areas of research include the Philosophy of Law, Constitutional Law, Human Rights and the Role of Law in Society and the State. Professor Gavison published a large number of essays – in Israel and abroad – in such fields as Legal Theory, the Protection of Privacy, Constitutions and constitution-making, Law and Religion, Democracy and Human Rights, and Israel as a Jewish and Democratic State. Professor Gavison also studies the institutional aspects of the relations between law, society and politics and wrote on the courts' role in rifted democracies and on institutions such as Commissions of Inquiry and the Attorney General.

Recognition of her academic work brought her numerous awards, among them the Emeth Prize (2003), the Cheshin Prize (2009) and the Israel Prize (2011). In addition to her academic work, Professor Gavison was vigorously involved in numerous public activities: she served as Chairperson of the Board and President of the Association for Civil Rights in Israel; In the Gavison-Medan Covenant she co-authored a framework for coexistence between religious and secular Jews in Israel; She served as senior advisor for the preparation of a constitution by the committee headed by M.K. Michael Eitan; and she is the Founding President of Metzilah: the Center of Zionist, Jewish, Liberal and Humanist Thought.

Professor Gavison served as a member of numerous public committees, among them the Winograd Commission to investigate the Second Lebanon War. Recently she was appointed by then Minister of Justice Livni to make recommendations

concerning the initiative to legislate the Basic Law: Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish People, and submitted her recommendations in November 2014.