10 reasons to change the Hatikva

1. Israel claims to be a democracy but its national anthem does not represent every citizen of Israel, Jewish and non-Jewish.
2. The national anthem says: *As long as the Jewish spirit is yearning deep in the heart,*
3. *With eyes turned toward the East, looking toward Zion.*
4. Israel defines itself as a Jewish, democratic state. The Hatikva is inherently a contradiction for the 20% of Israel’s citizens who are Arabs.
5. The anthem represents Ashkenazi Jews who are looking east towards Zion. It does not represent Sephardic Jews.
6. The "Hope" of Jews returning to their land has been fulfilled. The anthem is undemocratic and out of date.
7. The anthem should be rewritten to respect the national identity and aspirations of all people living in Israel
8. A compromise maybe to adapt the Canadian model of two national anthems where citizens can choose which they identify with.
9. Alternatively, the words can be changed. Jewish singer Neshama Carlebach suggested;

[Everything in parenthesis would be changed]

*As long as the heart within*

*An Israeli [Jewish] soul still yearns*

*And onward, towards the East*

*An eye still gazes towards our country [Zion]*

*We have still not lost our hope*

*our ancient [2000 year] hope*

*To be a free people in the land of our fathers [our land]*

*in the city in which David, in which David encamped [land of Zion and Jerusalem]*

*To be a free people in our land*

*In the land of Zion and Jerusalem*

1. You cannot expect an Israeli Arab to sing the Hatikva. The fact that many Israel arab judges and sportsman have refused to sing it proves the need for change. The symbols of the state must connect with the whole country and not just one part of it