

**"Can Two Walk Together
Except They be Agreed?"¹**
**Relationships Between the Government and
Philanthropy in Israel – Current Situation
and Thoughts for the Future**

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This article presents a conceptual framework and research conducted between the years 2013-2014, documenting and analysing the reciprocal relationship between the government and philanthropy in Israel. It describes the relationship's transformation in recent decades and the outcomes. These outcomes are the direct product of the **Interfacing Roundtables** which serve as the place in which dialogue is conducted between government, the business sector and nonprofit organisations. Research findings indicate several main themes: the formation and characteristics of government policy towards philanthropy; the role of philanthropy as perceived by the government and philanthropists; personal and structural barriers in the relationship between government and philanthropy; and the dynamic process of the relationship from rivalry to collaboration. These findings indicate a gradual and slow movement from an alienated relationship towards an accepting and positive approach. The setting allows stronger co-operation between the actors towards developing innovative and creative social, economic and educational initiatives to benefit the country's citizens.

1 Amos, 3:3.

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