האגודה לעידוד התיירות לנתניה
The Netanya Association for Tourism

Good evening, distinguished guests, dear friends,
Your Excellency Veronika Kuchyňová Šmigolová the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Israel
I am pleased and honored to open here in Netanya the exhibition "I Want to Be Human," dedicated to the life, work, and legacy of the writer Arnošt Lustig, marking the 100th anniversary of his birth.
I would like to extend a very special welcome to Ms. Eva Lustigová, daughter of Arnošt Lustig and CEO of the Arnošt Lustig Foundation.. Eva, your presence here gives this occasion a deeply personal and moving meaning, and we thank you for your important work in preserving your father's legacy and passing it on to future generations.
Arnošt Lustig, who personally experienced the horrors of the Holocaust, chose throughout his life and literary work to speak about humanity, compassion, hope, and the strength of the human spirit. His message – "The good in a person is expressed through their actions" – is universal and more relevant today than ever.
For us, in the City of Netanya, it is a great privilege to host such an important international exhibition, one that connects the memory of the past with our responsibility in the present and for the future: to protect human dignity, to stand against hatred and antisemitism, and to promote a society based on tolerance, mutual responsibility, and respect for others.
I would like to thank the Arnošt Lustig Foundation, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Israel, all our partners and organizers, and all the distinguished guests who have joined us this evening.
I invite you all to experience the exhibition, to learn more about the remarkable story of Arnošt Lustig, and above all, to carry with us his simple yet profound message – to be human.
Thank you, and welcome to Netanya.