

ISRAEL

Minister of Education

Ministry for Education

Yifat SHASHA-BITON

Born on 23 May 1973

Education

- Ph.D in Education
- MA in Education System Development and Management and Teacher Training
- BA in Educational Administration and Literature

Military Service

Rank: Sergeant

Biography

Yifat Shasha-Biton was born in Kiryat Shmona in 1973. In the IDF, she served as NCO of reserve duty personnel, completing her service with the rank of sergeant. Today, Yifat is married and the mother of three.

Shasha-Biton has a Ph.D. in Education, a MA in Education System Management and Development and Teacher Training and a BA in Educational Administration and Literature. All three degrees were earned at Haifa University. Her doctorate focused on educational and psychological aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In the academic and educational arena – between 2001 and 2009, Shasha-Biton lectured at Tel-Hai College. Between 2004 and 2015, she was a lecturer at Ohalo College. Until her election to the Knesset, Shasha-Biton served as head of the school for continuing education programs, advanced studies, professional development and external studies at Ohalo College. She served as vice president of the college until her election to the Knesset. Shasha-Biton also managed the Department of Education in Kfar Vradim, spearheading the process of growth and transitioning the system to a five-day school week.

In the public sector, Shasha-Biton served two years as deputy mayor of Kiryat Shmona (the first woman appointed to this position). For five years, she was in charge of the education and youth department in the city. Due to her work, the city won the district education prize.

Shasha-Biton served as member of the Board of Directors of The Economic Company of Kiryat Shmona, of the Kiryat Shmona Community Center and of Tel-Hai College.

In the political arena, Shasha-Biton was elected to the 20th Knesset on behalf of the Kulanu party headed by Moshe Kahlon and is the first representative from Kiryat Shmona in the Israeli Knesset.

Shasha-Biton chaired the Special Committee for the Rights of the Child, in which she monitored important issues such as child safety, sexual assault on children, daycare, preschool security, child exploitation by ad agencies, youth summer employment, violence in educational institutions, child prostitution, adoption, Well-baby Clinic, disability percentage of sick children, cyber-bullying, media content that is offensive to children, pupil rights, shaming on social networks, ban on weighing in schools, parties of minors in rental villas, etc.

During the 20th Knesset, Shasha-Biton was also a member of the Science and Technology Committee and the Subcommittee on Space. She chaired the Lobby for the Status of Teachers in Israel and the Lobby for Border Settlements – Confrontation Line, and was a member of the Lobby for Distributive Justice, the Lobby for Promoting a Healthy Body Image among Children, Teenagers and Young adults, the Lobby for Women in Business and the Lobby for Narrowing Gaps in Education.

In January 2019, Shasha-Biton was appointed as Minister of Construction and Housing. Since the establishment of the 21st Knesset in April 2019, Shasha-Biton has been serving a second term as a member of Knesset on behalf of the Kulanu party

On 13 June 2021 she was appointed as Minister of Education.