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**Reasonable Compassion: Humanitarian Status for
Aliens in Israel**

This Article deals with the status regulation of aliens on humanitarian grounds in Israel. According to the proposed analysis, a central humanitarian ground for status regulation is the distress that the alien might experience due to deportation, and the compassion that such distress should arouse in the official of the Population and Immigration Authority, who decides on the humanitarian application of that person. In addition to distress, some other humanitarian grounds are presented. The Article further discusses the nature of mitigating circumstances and counter-grounds, which militate against the humanitarian ground and pull in the direction of rejecting the humanitarian application. Following the conceptualization and typology of the humanitarian grounds, mitigating circumstances, and counter-grounds, the Article analyzes the reasonableness of a decision regarding status regulation on humanitarian grounds. It argues that a reasonable humanitarian decision is one in which a proper balance is struck between the considerations stemming from the ethics of compassion and those stemming from the ethics of justice. The Article suggests some legal applications of these ideas.