

Annual Report 2025

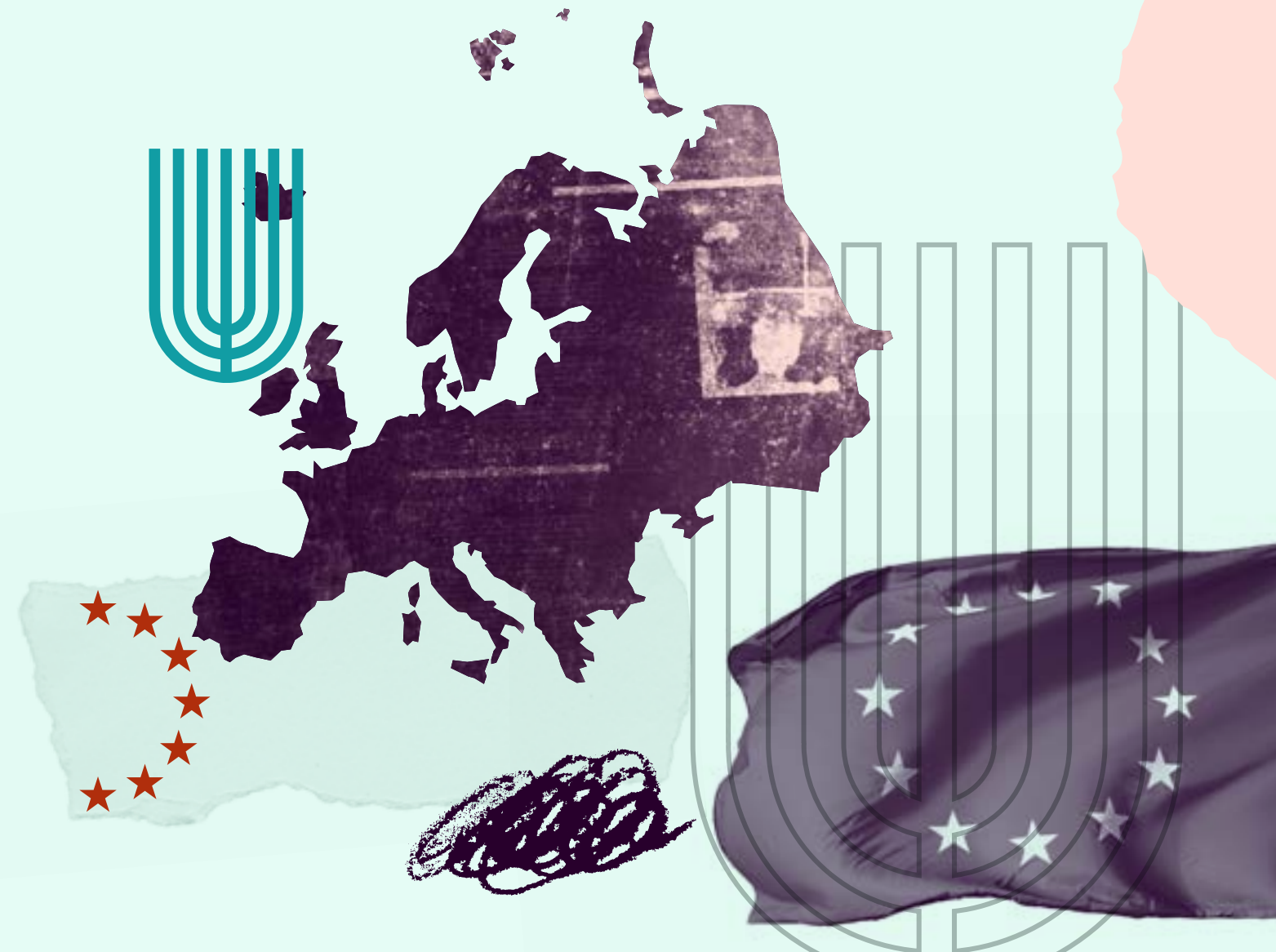


Contents

Chair's Report	4-5
Finance Report	6-8
Governance Report	9-10
EU Relations and Project	11
Darkeinu Keynote	12-15
European Beit Din	16
ERA Report	17
WUPJ Message	18-19
Emerging Communities	20
New Community Profile	21
Regional Reports	22 - 42
Seminaries	43-47
EUPJ Officers	48
Contacts	49

Welcome

WE FOSTER PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM
THROUGHOUT EUROPE. WE REPRESENT JEWS
IN EUROPE WHO SEEK A TRADITIONAL YET
CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION OF THEIR JEWISH
SPIRITUAL, CULTURAL AND RELIGIOUS IDENTITY.



Chair's Report

BUILDING THE NEXT PROGRESSIVE JEWISH CENTURY

The defining milestone of 2025/2026 was Darkeinu, our London gathering marking the centenary of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. It brought our movement together across countries, generations and institutions, not simply to celebrate a remarkable history, but to ask what our shared future demands of us. The conference gave visible expression to the EUPJ's central purpose: connecting communities, strengthening leadership and ensuring that Progressive Judaism remains confident, relevant and deeply rooted across Europe.

STRENGTHENING A MOVEMENT ACROSS EUROPE

Throughout the year, the EUPJ continued to support established, emerging and newly affiliated communities through mentoring, grants, advocacy and practical assistance. Our work ranged from helping communities develop sustainable leadership and liturgical resources to supporting access to recognised conversion processes through the European Beit Din. We invested in rabbinic training, lay leadership, youth and emerging leaders, while continuing to share expertise between communities through programmes for service leaders, pastoral care and organisational development.

Our European engagement also remained essential. We are delighted that our Neighbours project was approved for a second round of funding. Through our relations with the EU, we ensured that Progressive Jewish voices were heard in conversations about antisemitism, religious freedom, inclusion and the future of Jewish life.

We are profoundly grateful to Arthur Roswell, whose exceptional one-off gift of more than \$100,000 will give the EUPJ greater freedom to pursue this broad mission. His generosity was an act of confidence in the future of Progressive Judaism in Europe. We also began an important partnership with the National Center to Encourage Judaism, which will help our communities strengthen the welcome, education and support they offer to people exploring conversion and building Jewish lives.

FROM INSTITUTION BUILDING TO IDEA BUILDING

Darkeinu must not remain an isolated moment of inspiration. Our task now is to turn its energy into stronger year-round connection: sustained relationships between communities, deeper cooperation across national boundaries, shared learning and more opportunities for leaders of every generation to meet, think and build together.

“The next century will be secured not only by the institutions we preserve, but by the ideas we dare to build together.”

In my closing keynote (see p. 12-15), I argued that the next hundred years must be shaped not only by institution building, but by idea building. Institutions matter, but they endure only when animated by compelling ideas, moral purpose and a living Progressive Jewish vision. We must invest in the people and conversations that will help our movement articulate what Progressive Judaism offers Europe today: a Judaism rooted in tradition yet intellectually honest, ethically courageous, inclusive and responsive to the realities of contemporary Jewish life.

That means strengthening the communities already within our network, welcoming new ones, developing rabbis and lay leaders, amplifying young voices and ensuring that no congregation feels isolated. The centenary reminded us what previous generations built. Our responsibility is to give that inheritance renewed meaning and carry it forward together.

Rabbi Lea Mühlstein
Chair EUPJ



Finance Report

Provided below are tables reflecting the income and expenditure of the EUPJ for 2025 and comparative figures for 2024. The final table reflects our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2025, together with a summary of the main events that contributed to the annual results.

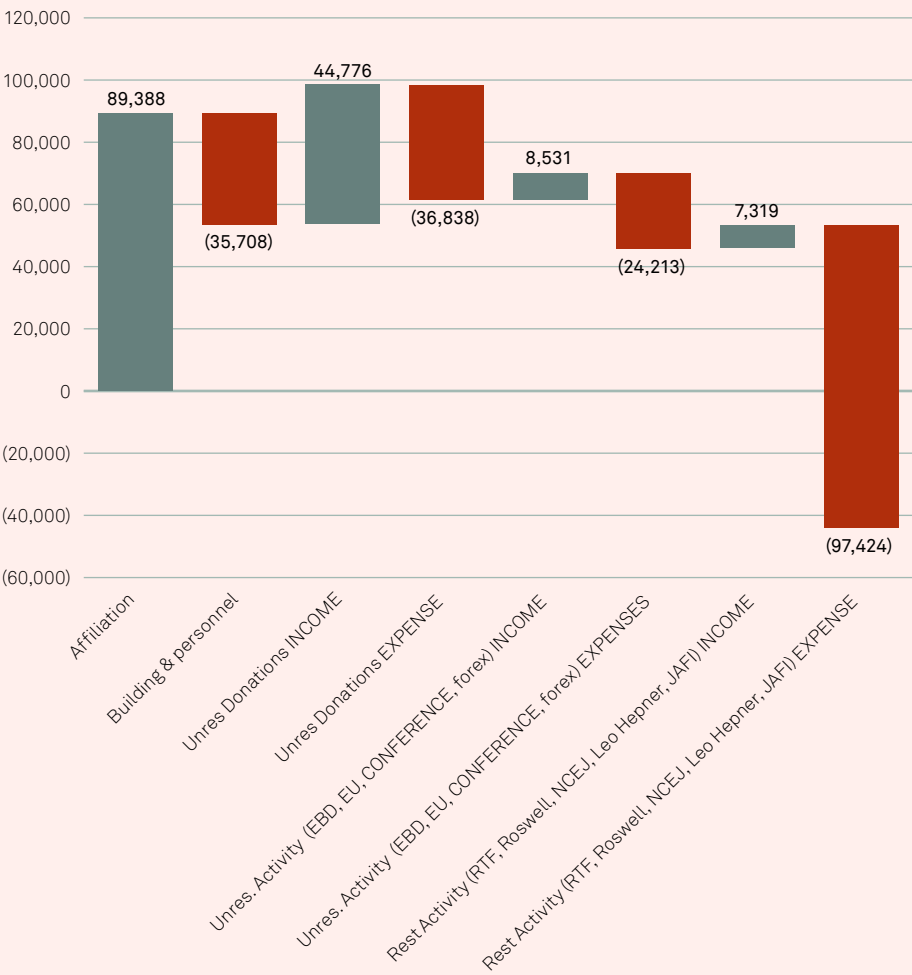
EUPJ INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2025

	% of total 2025	2025 £	2024 £	Var. 25-24 £
Income				
Affiliation fees	60%	89,389	89,598	-209
Grants received	21%	31,248	12,167	19,081
European Beit Din (EBD)	6%	8,531	8,393	138
Other Donations received	6%	8,349	5,039	3,310
Conference Income	0%	–	6,600	-6,600
Know Your Neighbour	0%	–	21,509	-21,509
JAPI HH2025 Cyprus	5%	7,260	–	7,260
Leo Hepner Fund	0%	59	4,259	-4,200
Ukrainian aid donations	0%	–	115	-115
Bad Debt recovery	0%	–	12,266	-12,266
Interests & dividends	3%	5,179	5,757	-578
Total	100%	£150,015	£165,703	-£15,688
	% of total 2025	2025 £	2024 £	Var. 25-24 £
Expenditure				
Administration	18%	35,708	39,640	-3,932
European Beit Din (EBD)	13%	25,834	26,793	-959
EUO and Other Payments	2%	3,277	3,310	-33
Know Your Neighbour	0%	–	504	-504
Conference & Shabbaton	0%	–	18,930	-18,930
Supporting communities & donations	15%	29,788	29,644	144
Bad Debt	4%	7,050	–	7,050
Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)	14%	28,131	–	28,131
Ukrainian appeal distribution and costs	0%	–	2	-2
Roswell Fund	31%	59,405	75,032	-15,627
Leo Hepner Award	1%	2,628	1,690	938
JAFI HH2025 in Cyprus	4%	7,260	–	7,260
(Gain) / Loss on Exchange	-3%	-4,897	5,945	-10,842
Total	100%	£194,184	£201,490	-£7,306

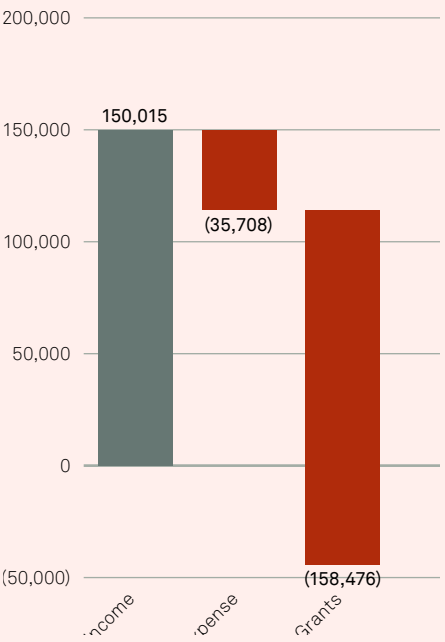
EUPJ INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2025

	2025 £	2024 £	Var. 25-24 £
Income	150,015	165,703	-15,688
Expenditure	194,184	201,490	-7,306
Surplus	-£44,169	-£35,787	-£8,382

EUPJ – INCOME & EXPENSES
IN 2025 (IN £)



EUPJ – SUMMARY INCOME
& EXPENSES IN 2025 (IN £)



Finance Report

EUPJ BALANCE SHEET 2025

	2025 £	2024 £	Var. 2025-2024 £
Assets			
Debtors	594	10,509	-9,915
Cash	401,203	429,868	-28,665
	£401,797	£440,377	-£38,580
Liabilities			
Creditors	£19,158	£13,569	£5,589
Net Assets	£382,639	£426,808	-£44,169
Funds			
Unrestricted	328,442	282,506	45,936
Restricted	54,197	144,302	-90,105
Total	£382,639	£426,808	-£44,169

COMMENTARY

1. The net movement in Unrestricted funds in 2025 was £45,936 (2024: £36,566).
2. The net movement in Restricted funds in 2025 was negative with -£90,105 (2024: -£72,350).
3. Affiliation fees for the year totaled £89,389, which was nearly the same as in 2024.
4. Grant received are £31,248. These are included within Other Donations and Legacies within the Statement of Financial Activities.
5. The European Beit Din income for the year was £8,531, which is £138 lower than the previous year.
6. Total Grant support for the Project High Holidays in Cyprus (together with JAFI at 50/50) was very successful, for a total grant of £7,260.
7. Administration expenses for 2025 totalled £35,708, in decrease of -£3,932, as compared to expenditure in 2024 due to a non-recurring meeting.
8. Money spent for supporting communities in 2025, (£29,788), shows an increase of £144, in supporting actions in favour of communities.
9. Money spent from Roswell funds in 2025, (£59,405), shows the high level of actions in favour of developing communities from Central Europe, Italy and Iberian Peninsula, in spite of failing allocated income.
10. Bank balances at 31 December were £401,797 (2024: £440,377), in decrease of -£38,580.
11. Total funds at 31 December were £382,639 (2024: £426,808), in decrease of -£44,169.

Governance Report 2025

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

During 2025, EUPJ continued to strengthen and diversify its membership base through the admission of new member communities, the restoration of historic memberships and the inclusion of additional rabbinical training institutions. These developments reflect both the continued growth of Progressive Jewish life across Europe and EUPJ’s commitment to supporting communities and institutions at every stage of development.

COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

A significant development during the year was the restoration of the direct membership of Shir Hatzafon (Denmark). The congregation had historically been a member of the EUPJ before becoming affiliated through Liberal Judaism UK. When the community joined Liberal Judaism, an agreement was reached that it would be entitled to restore its direct EUPJ membership should it cease to be represented through the UK movement. Following discussions with the congregation and its leadership, the Management Committee welcomed the return of Shir Hatzafon to direct membership, renewing a long-standing relationship between the community and the European Progressive movement.

The Management Committee also approved the admission of Liberalna Judovske Skupnosti Slovenije, extending EUPJ representation in Slovenia and strengthening support for Progressive Jewish communities in Central Europe.

In addition, Bnei Maskilim Vilnius was admitted to membership following a review of its development plans and future growth potential. The admission reflects EUPJ’s ongoing commitment to nurturing emerging Progressive Jewish communities, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe.

RABBINICAL COLLEGES AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Alongside the development of congregational membership, 2025 saw important progress in strengthening EUPJ’s network of rabbinical and educational institutions.

The Management Committee approved the admission of L’École Rabbinique de Paris, recognising the important contribution of Progressive rabbinical training within the French-speaking Jewish world and reinforcing EUPJ’s commitment to developing future religious leadership in Europe.

A further milestone was reached with the admission of Stichting Robert A. Levisson (The Levisson Institute) in the Netherlands. The Levisson Institute is a Progressive rabbinical college dedicated to the education and training of future rabbis and Jewish leaders. Following a detailed review of its governance arrangements, educational programmes and organisational structure, the Management Committee concluded that the Institute met the requirements for EUPJ membership. In recognition of its status as a rabbinical training institution, the Committee also approved its entitlement to representation on the Executive Board alongside EUPJ's other member rabbinical colleges.

The admission of both the Levisson Institute and L'École Rabbinique de Paris represents a strategic investment in the future leadership of Progressive Judaism in Europe and strengthens EUPJ's role in supporting rabbinical education across the continent.

STRENGTHENING REPRESENTATION ACROSS EUROPE

The Management Committee continued to review representative structures to ensure that member communities were appropriately connected to EUPJ's governance processes. Particular attention was given to improving representation within the Iberian Peninsula, where separate arrangements were developed for Spain and Portugal, enabling more direct engagement between EUPJ and its constituent communities.

The Committee also welcomed Anna Nosková as the proposed representative for the Czech Republic and introduced a more structured onboarding process for Executive Board representatives. This approach is intended to strengthen communication between communities and EUPJ leadership while ensuring representatives are fully supported in carrying out their responsibilities.

Overall, the developments during 2025 demonstrate EUPJ's continued commitment to building a stronger, more representative and more connected European Progressive Jewish community through both membership growth and enhanced governance structures.

Jonathan Eaton
Vice Chair, Governance

EU Relations and Project

STRENGTHENING JEWISH LIFE AND COMBATING ANTISEMITISM IN EUROPE

During 2025, EUPJ further strengthened its role as a clear European voice for Progressive Judaism through strategic engagement with European institutions and active participation in various EU discussions and panels.

In January, EUPJ participated in the 8th Working Group Meeting on the EU Strategy on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life in Brussels. The meeting brought together representatives of the European Commission, national antisemitism coordinators from all 27 EU Member States, Jewish organizations, and civil society partners. Discussions focused on combating antisemitic hate speech, addressing extremism and foreign influence, strengthening cooperation between EU institutions and national governments, and promoting Jewish life across Europe.

EUPJ strengthened its strategic collaboration with partner organizations, including CEJI, HIAS and Masorti Europe, promoting inclusiveness, LGBTQ+ rights, interfaith dialogue, and the recognition of the diversity of Jewish communities throughout Europe. Follow-up discussions with EU-staff and other key stakeholders have further enhanced cooperation and increased visibility of Progressive Judaism at the European level.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEIGHBOURS II PROJECT

Since late summer of 2025 the Neighbours II project was developed by HIAS Europe in close collaboration with EUPJ. Neighbours II expands both the scale and diversity of participation.

In addition to Liberal Jewish communities; the project includes Masorti and Orthodox partners, creating new opportunities for cooperation and mutual learning across different Jewish denominations. The project focuses on the continuation of anti-bias interfaith dialogue through additional young leadership capacity and essential educational materials, taking into account post-7 October realities. The application was sent out in October 2025 and was awarded €500,000 EU funding in May 2026. The project will commence in September 2026 and run until late 2028.



IMPACT

Through both its European advocacy work and its involvement in Neighbours II, EUPJ has reinforced its position as a key contributor to the development of inclusive Jewish life in Europe and building relations with representatives of other European Jewish organisations.

EUPJ continues to advocate for religious pluralism, foster interfaith understanding, and support initiatives that combat antisemitism while building stronger, more connected communities across the continent.

For more information, please contact Paul Gompes, Vice Chair EU Relations & Projects gompesp@eupj.eu

Imagining the Next Century

The following keynote address was delivered by Rabbi Lea Mühlstein at Darkeinu, the centenary celebration of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue on 28 June 2026

We gather here at the close of our celebrations of the centenary of the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) with one hundred years behind us and the horizon still ahead.

Much of our first century was, necessarily, a century of institution-building. Across continents and languages, Progressive Jews built communities, movements, rabbinic seminaries, youth movements, schools, charities, advocacy organisations and global networks.

That work was not administrative. It was sacred. Without those builders, we would not be gathered in this room. Without their courage, there would be no “we” capable of speaking about the future.

It would be tempting to focus this keynote address on the important work of the European Union of Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), which I have the privilege of chairing. But this historic moment, I believe calls for more.

Because I want to suggest that the next hundred years will ask something different of us. Not because institutions no longer matter — of course, they do — but because they can house a movement without by

themselves making it move. For that, we need ideas: ideas deep enough to teach, brave enough to challenge, generous enough to gather, and compelling enough to travel.

So, at the risk of oversimplifying history, I would summarise the first hundred years of the World Union as asking: can Progressive Judaism build institutions strong enough to hold us?

And I want to suggest that the question for the next hundred years must be: can Progressive Judaism build ideas strong enough to carry us? Not idea-building as an afterthought to institutional survival, but idea-building as its prerequisite. For Progressive Judaism may endure even where particular institutions change, merge, weaken or disappear. But it cannot endure if we lose the ideas that make it spiritually compelling, morally serious and Jewishly alive.

Among the many builders we could honour this morning, I want to name just one: Lily Montagu. Not because she was the only one, but because she understood, with extraordinary clarity, that institutions become possible only when someone first dares to articulate a need.

Lily Montagu was instrumental in the founding of the WUPJ and the Jewish Religious Union, which became Liberal Judaism and is now part of the Movement for Progressive Judaism.

But she also built institutions that responded directly to the needs of individuals. At the West Central Jewish Girls’ Club, working-class Jewish girls could develop themselves socially, intellectually and spiritually. Even the timing of prayer was reshaped around their lives: Shabbat morning services held at three o’clock in the afternoon so that young women working in the hotels of the West End could attend.

That is Progressive Judaism at its best: not changing Judaism because we are casual about it; but changing the doorway so that those who need Torah can enter.

And yet, before Lily Montagu built institutions, she built ideas. In 1899, in her essay *Spiritual Possibilities of Judaism To-Day*, she wrote with a sharpness that continues to inspire. She understood that Judaism could not be renewed by respectability, nostalgia, or maintenance. Jews, she wrote, needed “energy to examine their religious needs and courage to formulate them.”¹ Without

that courage, they would fail “to restore to Judaism its life and the endless possibilities inherent in life.”²

The question before us is whether our Judaism can live with enough truth, depth, courage and beauty that future generations will want to build with it, argue with it, pray with it, inherit it and transform it.

So, as we leave this conference, I want to ask: What will it take for Progressive Judaism to travel into its second century with purpose?

Rabbi John Rayner, of blessed memory, once preached in this very sanctuary a sermon with the wonderfully concise title: *Have Torah, Will Travel*.

And in it, he suggested that anyone undertaking a journey needs five things: discontent, preparation, an efficient vehicle, perseverance and a destination.

So let us ask what it would mean for Progressive Judaism, standing at the edge of its second century as a global movement, to say with humility and resolve: have Torah, will travel.

Our journey begins with discontent. Not the familiar Jewish discontent of committee meetings that go on too long and minutes that are never quite accurate, but something deeper: the sacred discontent that recognises the gap between what is and what could yet be.

The discontent of Abraham, who left the familiar because he heard a call towards blessing; of the daughters

of Zelophehad, who demanded their rightful inheritance; of the prophets, who loved Israel too much to confuse worship with righteousness.

Progressive Judaism was born from that kind of discontent: not contempt for tradition, but the conviction that tradition itself asks us to tell the truth. If the next hundred years are to be a century of idea-building, we will need to recover that holy unease. We will need to be discontent with any version of Judaism that is warm but thin, proud of its values but unsure how to transmit them, open to the world but uncertain of its own Jewish voice.

Above all, we will need to be discontent with any version of Progressive Judaism so anxious about survival that survival itself becomes the mission. We do not exist merely to keep our institutions alive. We build institutions because Judaism has something to say about justice, holiness, responsibility, God, Israel, humanity, and the possibility that the world can be otherwise.

Sacred discontent may begin the journey, but it cannot sustain it by itself. Anger can expose what is broken. Longing can reveal what is missing. But neither anger nor longing is enough to build a future. For that, we need preparation.

One of the dangers for Progressive Judaism in the next century is not that we will be too progressive. We must embrace the bold and creative spirit of the prophets, the rabbis, and the many women whose innovations were ignored or accredited to men.

We must be courageous enough to be willing to wash our dirty linen in public.

But we must be careful not to speak eloquently about values without knowing the texts that formed them; not to invoke tradition without having wrestled with it; not to claim intellectual honesty without doing the intellectual work; not to ask our children to choose Judaism without giving them a Judaism rich enough to choose.

Preparation means taking our own Judaism seriously enough to learn it.

It means knowing enough Torah to know that our tradition has never spoken in only one voice. It means knowing enough Hebrew to hear the layers beneath the translation. It means knowing enough history to understand how much courage renewal has required in every generation and to pay attention to the voices that were forgotten or marginalised.

And preparation also means moral and spiritual formation. We will need leaders who can hold complexity without collapsing into vagueness, who can speak about Israel with love and honesty, who can respond to antisemitism without allowing fear to become our only Jewish language, who can build communities of genuine welcome without mistaking welcome for the absence of expectation.

This is why our seminaries matter. This is why youth movements matter. This is why cheder, adult learning,

serious prayer, courageous preaching, pastoral depth and interfaith work. Not because they are programmes to be maintained, but because they are the provisions we pack for the road.

The Mishnah (Pirkei Avot 5:22) teaches: “Turn it and turn it, for everything is in it.” Not glance at it. Not admire it from a distance. Turn it. Return to it. Question it. Let it question us. For a movement that wishes to travel into the future must know what it carries.

But preparation still needs a vehicle.

My teacher, British-born Israeli Rabbi Michael Marmur, suggests that Progressive Jews might think of ourselves as akin to the Masoretes, those extraordinary guardians of the biblical text who added vowels and cantillation marks to the consonants of the Torah.

The image is powerful because the Masoretes did not invent the Torah. But they knew that without vowels, the consonants could be read in more than one way. So they added vowels. Not to replace the consonants, but to help them speak.

That indeed is one of the great tasks of Progressive Judaism. We inherit the consonants of Jewish tradition: Torah and Talmud, prayer and practice, Shabbat and festival, covenant and commandment, memory and hope.

We do not invent them, and we do not own them. But we are responsible for helping them speak in our generation.

Our task is to add vowels: to ask how ancient words can become audible again; how inherited practices can become pathways to holiness rather than monuments to nostalgia; how prayer can be spoken with integrity; how Jewish law can be engaged with seriousness without being treated as immune from moral scrutiny; how feminism, queer experience, ecological responsibility, disability justice, interfaith encounter, the advent of AI, Israel and diaspora, grief and joy, all become part of the living vocalisation of Torah.

And perhaps this is where the next century's idea-building becomes most urgent. In one hundred years, I hope the person standing here in my place will look back and celebrate the Progressive Jewish hermeneutics we have developed: ways of reading tradition that are neither defensive nor dismissive; rooted in love of Torah, the Jewish people, the human being created in the image of God, and truth itself; historically conscious, morally serious, spiritually humble and communally responsible.

The efficient vehicle we need is not novelty for its own sake, nor the reflex to modernise every difficulty away. It is the disciplined, loving, sometimes painful work of giving voice to the tradition we have received, with scholarship, prayer, lived experience, debate, and the courage to say that fidelity to Torah sometimes means hearing in it possibilities that earlier generations could not yet hear.

For consonants alone are not enough. A movement that wishes to travel

needs a Torah that can be voiced. And a movement that wishes to build ideas needs to know how to read.

This brings us to maybe the least glamorous of Rayner's five requirements for a journey: perseverance.

Progressive Judaism enters its second century in a world marked by rising antisemitism, political extremism, climate crisis, loneliness, religious exhaustion, and deep fractures within Jewish life itself. We live in a time when Israel, which should be a source of pride, attachment, creativity and hope, is also a place of anguish, moral struggle and profound disagreement. We live in a time when many Jews feel exposed in the public square, and when many of our communities are tired from carrying too much for too long.

In such a moment, the temptation is to simplify: to become only particular, because the world feels dangerous; or to become only universal, because particularity feels too costly. To harden our language until no one can enter it; or to soften our language until it no longer says anything at all. To define Judaism only as the answer to antisemitism; or to speak about the world so broadly that our Judaism becomes merely decorative.

Perseverance means refusing these false choices. It means remaining Progressive when certainty is seductive. Remaining Jewish when assimilation feels easier. Remaining morally serious when slogans would be more convenient. Remaining committed to Israel

without surrendering the prophetic responsibility to speak honestly about power, justice and human dignity.

Remaining open to the world without losing the particular Jewish practices, memories and obligations that make our openness more than sentiment. Progressive Judaism understands that there is no short cut to the messianic age. Redemption is not something we can await passively, nor something we can force violently into being. It is the long, patient, demanding work of human beings responding to God's call by doing what lies within our power to make the world more just, more compassionate and more whole.

That is the kind of perseverance Progressive Judaism will need.

And yet, not every destination is worthy of the road. If our destination is only survival, growth, or the fact that Progressive Judaism still exists in another hundred years, then we have mistaken endurance for purpose.

Rabbi Rayner taught that Judaism only fulfils its purpose when it helps form people capable of responsibility: responsibility for one another, for the Jewish people, and ultimately for humanity itself. Jewish community, in this understanding, is a training ground for moral and spiritual responsibility.

That must be our destination: not survival alone, but significance; not continuity alone, but covenantal responsibility; not simply a movement that lasts, but a movement that helps human beings become more truthful, more compassionate, more

courageous, more able to carry blessing into the world.

That would be a destination worthy of the journey.

And so, we return to the title of this conference: *Darkeinu* — *One story, many journeys*. That title feels truer to me now than it did when we began planning this gathering. Progressive Judaism has been one story because across all our many journeys, we have carried a shared conviction: that Judaism is alive; that Torah can still speak; that inherited tradition and moral courage belong in conversation; that religious life must be honest enough for the world as it is and brave enough for the world as it could yet become.

For the institutions we have inherited, we give thanks. For the ideas we must now build, we accept responsibility.

In a hundred years, may those who gather in our place be able to say that we did not merely maintain what we inherited. May they say that we imagined bravely, learned deeply, interpreted faithfully, argued honestly, built generously, and travelled with purpose.

May they say that, in our time, at the threshold of the second century, Progressive Judaism found again the courage to be alive.

Have Torah, will travel.
Nesi'ah Tovah.

Lea Mühlstein

European Beit Din (EBD)

This is the first report delivered by Rabbi Ruven Bar-Ephraïm. Since June 2025 I had to step into the big shoes of my friend and colleague Rabbi Jackie Tabbick, who I wish the joy of retirement and thank her with a big Yeshar Kochech, for the many years during which she headed and consolidated the EBD.

This meant also a new situation at the office. Until then Rabbi Jackie headed the Beit Din of the MRJ too. With her leaving the two Batei Din separated, only connected through the amazing work of Lynsey Bookmaker, the Beit Din Manager. We found our way in this and I thank Lynsey for her help and advise so I could get familiar with the work of the EBD.

The EBD held motavim (Beit Din sessions) in London (one in December 2025 and one in February 2026) and in Rome (May 2026). During which, we interviewed candidates from Finland, Danmark, Spain and Italy. The contact with the candidates, listening to their stories, their life journeys is always wonderful and doesn't fail to move me.

These conversions could not have taken place, without the work of the local rabbis. I had the pleasure of working with colleagues from the UK, Israel and Italy, who volunteered of their time, to sit on a panel for the EBD.

Requests for conversion enter our mailboxes frequently, from individuals who live in countries without a progressive congregation or a Jewish one at all, like Greece, Iceland or Egypt. Until a community is established, conversions in the places belong to the future.

Rav Ruven Bar-Ephraïm,
Av Beit Din – EBD

ERA report

The European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) is the association for the rabbis who serve the communities of the EUPJ. ERA helps to give progressive Judaism in Europe a rabbinic voice, and supports the network of rabbis in their work across the continent.

The ERA board meets on a monthly basis and consists of the following rabbis:

- Marc Neiger (Belgium, treasurer),
- Sylvia Rothschild (Italy, secretary),
- Menno ten Brink (Netherlands),
- Ruven bar Ephraim (European Beit Din),
- Pauline Bebe (France),
- Etienne Kerber (France),
- Fabian Sborowsky (UK),
- Ulrike Offenberg (Germany) and
- Nathan Alfred (Switzerland, Chair).

ERA organizes regular online study sessions for its members. These include a recent series of Talmud classes with Dr. Gila Fine. In June 2026 we gathered in London around the EUPJ Darkenu conference for a rabbinic study day at Leo Baeck College, as well as for an afternoon tea at the Liberal Jewish Synagogue. In November 2026 we will hold our annual ERA Kallah in Vilnius, Lithuania.

For more details about this and all ERA's activities, see our website: <https://www.eupj-ra.eu/>

WUPJ Message

The WUPJ sends warm greetings to our partners in the EUPJ. We congratulate you on a successful Darkeinu conference in London in June and were pleased that so many WUPJ leaders from Europe and beyond were in attendance, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of WUPJ in 1926 in London.

As war continues in Israel, Jews around the world suffer the worst antisemitism in years and our communities in Ukraine are still under siege. We all need to work together for Tikkun Am, our shared duty to heal, unite, and renew the Jewish people. Please visit our [annual report](#) for a full picture of the WUPJ including ongoing **relief and support for Progressive communities in Ukraine**. We offer partnership to all members of the EUPJ in building strong and sustainable communities with inspired leadership.

This year, the WUPJ's **Center for Education and Leadership Development** expanded its investment in local and global leadership, including throughout Europe. Alongside the **Global Leadership Fellowship**, the WUPJ's premier leadership training program that nurtures "Glocal" leadership, we inaugurated the **Digital Leadership Fellowship** and the **Musical Leadership Fellowship**. The **Local Leadership Development Initiatives** grant supported even more communities this year- financially and pedagogically – and the **Shlichut Hub** matches spiritual leaders to small and emerging communities.

We are proud that **Tamar** and **Netzer** leaders fronted the WUPJ delegation to the **World Zionist Congress**, that they have increased the number of youth movement shlichim to Progressive communities, and support an annual **Open Call** for new educational initiatives as well as Netzer **summer and winter camps**. Recruitment is underway for the 2027 **Shnat Netzer** Gap Year program in Israel.

We hope to see you at **Connections** this 3-6 March 2027, at Beit Shmuel in Jerusalem. We will reflect on 100 years of the WUPJ and continue the tradition of **Torah Exchange** at a celebratory Shabbat service where veteran communities pass a Torah scroll to emerging communities.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Rabbi Sergio Bergman,
President

Phyllis Dorey,
OAM, Chair



Emerging Communities

Rabbi Dr Alexander Grodensky
alexander.grodensky@eupj.org

A NEW VOICE FOR EUROPE'S EMERGING KEHILLOT

This year saw the launch of the Vice Chair for Emerging Communities – a new role giving Europe's youngest Progressive communities a dedicated advocate and a direct line into the Management Committee. In the last months I worked to open steady contact with five emerging communities, mapped their needs, and began channeling guidance where it matters most: organizational structure, sponsorship, rabbinic guidance, and the search for rabbinic leadership.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED

The foundation of this new role is relationship. Much of the time was spent in ongoing communication with our emerging communities – Ljubljana (Slovenia), Helsinki (Finland), Vilnius (Lithuania), Tbilisi (Georgia), and Limassol (Cyprus) – listening closely to understand each community's stage and circumstances. From these conversations, clear areas of support emerged: helping build sustainable organizational structures, navigating sponsorship opportunities, offering rabbinic advice drawn from my own experience as a rabbi, and assisting communities in finding a rabbi or a student rabbi. I have also opened

contact with the rabbinical schools to understand their resources and terms for providing internships in the emerging communities.

WHAT COMES NEXT

The role now also serves as a first point of contact for entirely new initiatives. An example is our contact with an activist in Serbia working to launch a Progressive group around Belgrade, which can be developed in cooperation with our community in Slovenia, which is well placed to offer regional encouragement. Building on this year's foundations, the goal ahead is to deepen support to each community, help more of them secure rabbinic leadership and durable structures, and accompany fresh initiatives as they emerge. A key future goal is to develop partnerships (twinning) between developed and emerging communities; developed communities are warmly invited to contact the Vice Chair to explore twinning opportunities.

“Every emerging community carries a spark; our task is simply to help it become a lasting flame.”

New Community Profile

BUILDING PROGRESSIVE JEWISH LIFE IN CYPRUS

Shirat HaYam reached an important milestone this year by becoming an Associate Community of the European Union for Progressive Judaism. This recognition reflects the remarkable growth of our egalitarian Jewish community in Limassol and strengthens our connection to the wider Progressive Jewish movement. Alongside expanding our religious and cultural programmes, we have laid the foundations for long-term Jewish education, community engagement and meaningful partnerships across Cyprus.

GROWING A VIBRANT JEWISH COMMUNITY

Over the past year, Shirat HaYam has established a regular cycle of Shabbat and festival celebrations, launched an inclusive Bar and Bat Mitzvah programme, expanded Jewish learning opportunities for adults and families, and welcomed members from diverse backgrounds. We have strengthened relationships with international Progressive Jewish organisations while building partnerships locally with educational institutions, civic organisations and the Israeli community. Our community has also taken an active role in promoting dialogue, inclusion and educational initiatives addressing antisemitism and Jewish identity, demonstrating that Progressive Judaism has an important and growing place within Cypriot society.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our next chapter focuses on sustainability and growth. We are establishing the OGEN Centre for Hebrew, Israeli culture and community education, creating a permanent home for educational programmes serving children, youth and families. We will continue expanding Jewish lifecycle services, leadership development and volunteer engagement while working towards full EUPJ membership. Through stronger regional partnerships and wider community outreach, Shirat HaYam aims to become a recognised centre for Progressive Jewish life in Cyprus, connecting local families, international residents and visitors with an open, welcoming and inclusive Jewish community.



“Our responsibility is to build a liberal Jewish home where our children and future generations can embrace an egalitarian, inclusive and modern Jewish way of life, rooted in our heritage, inspired by our values and proud of their Jewish identity.”

— Michal Shinitzky, Chairperson

Regional Reports

BELGIUM



Beth Hillel and IJC continue to grow together, respecting the diversity of each congregation while celebrating the richness of our progressive Jewish family within the Belgian landscape. Four times a year, the two communities celebrate Shabbat together, with the visiting congregation following the host's minhag. Shared celebrations such as the bilingual Shavuot study night have become valued traditions, and this year Simchat Torah will join the calendar of joint events. As Rabbis Marc Neiger and Brian Doyle-Du Breuil emphasise, we seek to pool resources and build synergies while preserving the distinct identity and independence of each community.

BETH HILLEL

Following the celebration of Beth Hillel's 60th anniversary, the community gained fresh momentum, strengthening and diversifying its activities. Guided by the belief that a synagogue is a place for prayer, study and exchange, member participation in services and the number of Oneg Shabbat gatherings continued to grow. New initiatives included welcoming Rabbinical student Mati Boulakia-Bortnick, who introduced participants to Talmudic study through an exploration of words and meanings. The launch of Ciné-Cina, the synagogue's film club, further enriched community life, reflecting an increasingly diverse programme shaped by participation and the active engagement of members.



IJC

The past year has been another rich and encouraging chapter in the life of the International Jewish Centre. Alongside our regular Shabbat and festival services, we welcomed new members, celebrated life-cycle events, and accompanied those exploring Judaism through education and conversion. Torah study, Hebrew classes, our Hebrew School, and a vibrant programme of social events have strengthened both learning and friendship. Highlights included our joyful Purim celebration and Shavuot gathering. Looking ahead, the launch of the IJC App will enhance communication and connection. Above all, IJC continues to grow as an open, inclusive Progressive Jewish community where people from many backgrounds truly find a Jewish home.



Regional Reports

CZECHIA



A YEAR OF GROWTH, COOPERATION AND PROGRESSIVE JEWISH LIFE

The Progressive Jewish movement in the Czech Republic continues to grow in confidence, diversity and visibility, playing an increasingly important role in Jewish communal life and public life.

Ec chajim, the Progressive Jewish Community of Prague, has continued its remarkable expansion, welcoming new members, broadening its educational programmes and celebrating an increasing number of conversions, B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies, weddings and regular Shabbat and festival services. The community has also enriched its religious life through regular organ-accompanied services with Professor Dr. Ralph Selig. With membership expected to reach 300 in the near future, Ec chajim has become one of the largest and fastest-growing Progressive Jewish communities in Central Europe.

A major achievement this year was Ec chajim's leading role in bringing a Czech Torah scroll from the collection of the Memorial Scrolls Trust to its new permanent home in the Parliament of the Czech Republic, symbolising remembrance, continuity and the enduring contribution of Jewish heritage to Czech public life. The community also hosted the Central European Jewish Leadership Seminar, strengthening cooperation among Progressive communities and leaders across the region.

Bejt Simcha has likewise had year full of religious and cultural activities. Most noteworthy has been the ongoing publication activities supported by the community. In 2025 Maskil magazine continued to be published regularly. The 20-page magazine has a circulation of 400 copies and is distributed free of charge to Jewish communities and organisations throughout the Czech Republic and, by arrangement, also to organisations in Slovakia. It is also distributed to libraries, selected bookstores and second-hand bookshops, as well as university departments focusing on Jewish studies and religious studies. In addition, the community is currently working on the new publication of a Passover Haggadah. The aim is to create a modern and functional publication that meets the needs of the progressive Jewish community. The authors are Ivan Kohout and Jan David Reitschläger.

Progressive Jewish life is flourishing beyond Prague. The Jewish Community of Liberec continued to offer Progressive services and educational programmes throughout 2025.

An important regional milestone has been the continued work of the Central European Beit Din, led by Rabbi David Maxa, which serves Progressive communities across Central and Eastern Europe by providing recognised standards for conversion and strengthening regional cooperation.

A significant public recognition came when Rabbi David Maxa of Ec chajim was invited to deliver the Jewish blessing at the inauguration of the new Archbishop of Prague in the presence of the President of the Czech Republic—the first time in Czech history that a rabbi has been given this honour.



Regional Reports

DENMARK

Shir Hatzafo



In 2025, Shir Hatzafo continued to serve as Denmark's only inclusive, egalitarian home for Progressive Jewish life. Rooted in our commitment to tradition meeting modern values, the congregation provided a vibrant spiritual and cultural space for members in Copenhagen and across the country.

Throughout the year, we celebrated regular Shabbat services, High Holy Days, and festivals such as Tu biShvat, Sukkot and Purim (which we organised and celebrated in collaboration with the other Jewish communities in Denmark). Our services, which balance Hebrew liturgy with Danish and English explanations, ensuring an accessible atmosphere for our diverse, international membership, have been led by student Rabbi Rafe Thurstance.

Education remained a core pillar in 2025 with B'nei Mitzvah preparation and adult learning modules. We were delighted to mark several life-cycle events this year, including two B'nei

Mitzvah, and to provide continuing support for candidates pursuing conversion through the European Beit Din. We ran a series of Jewish film nights throughout the year at a local cinema, took an active role in organising and contributing to the annual Jewish Culture Festival in Copenhagen, and Rafe Thurstance participated in several events and panel discussions, such as "A Jewish way to disagree: from Talmud to the modern world" organised by the Danish Jewish youth movement, and gave several interviews with national media organisations. Furthermore, we held talks by visiting scholars and rabbis, such as Rabbi Amichai Lau-Lavie, on a range of Jewish topics.

Neel Ingstrup and Jonathan Adams took over as chairperson from Jan Schwarz and Jason Levy and new members were added to the board. The year also marks the 25th jubilee of the founding of Progressive Judaism in Denmark, a milestone we will be celebrating later this year.

As we look ahead, Shir Hatzafo remains committed to deepening community bonds, nurturing future generations, providing more activities for our members, and expanding our presence as part of the European Progressive Jewish movement.



FINLAND

Or Hatzafon



The year from May 2025 to June 2026 was one of growth and sharing for the Progressive Or Hatzafon Finland community.

Our High Holy Day services were co-led by Rabbi Olya Weinstein and rabbinical student Iiro Jääskeläinen, bringing our members together for prayer, reflection and renewal. Throughout the year, we also celebrated Shabbat and the Jewish festivals. Our Chanukah celebration filled the dark winter with light and drew together a warm gathering of community members and friends.

We were delighted to welcome Dr Ralph Selig as visiting cantor for Tu BiShvat and Shavuot. His musical and spiritual contribution enriched both occasions and offered our community new learning.

Life-cycle celebrations were another joyful part of the year. We celebrated Bnei Mitzvah ceremonies, important milestones not only for the young people and their families, but for our entire growing community. In May 2025, Or Hatzafon also rejoiced in the Jewish wedding of our long-time community leader Iiro Jääskeläinen and his wife Mariia Kanevskaja.

Jewish learning remained at the heart of our work. Rabbi Olya Weinstein continued to lead our weekly conversion class, enabling participants in Finland to learn and deepen their connection to Judaism. The programme has also strengthened the bonds between those preparing for conversion and the wider community.

These moments of study, worship and celebration reflect what Or Hatzafon Finland seeks to build: an inclusive, caring and vibrant Progressive Jewish home, rooted in tradition and open to the future.



Regional Reports

FRANCE

Mouvement Juif Libéral de France (MJLF)

The « Mouvement juif libéral de France » was founded in 1977 and is, with l'« Union libérale de France » one of the two founding liberal Jewish congregation, in November 2019, of « Judaïsme en Mouvement ». A majority of our board members are also board members of « Judaïsme en Mouvement ».

MJLF's mission is three fold :

- 1) Represent as a significant liberal Jewish congregation, the liberal movement by the « Conseil représentatif des institutions juives de France » (CRIF, grouping all French Jewish institutions)

- 2) Represent a French liberal congregation at the international level : EUPJ/ IMPJ/WUPJ

- 3) Support Jewish liberal education, being a founding and important board member of l'« Ecole Juive moderne » (EJM , 400 students),

In January 2026 MJLF's board was renewed for a two years term. Patrick Schein was elected Chair and Michel Kahn Vice President for international relations.

In 2027 MJLF will celebrate its 50th anniversary.



Michel f. Kahn



Patrick Schein

FRANCE

Communauté Juive Libérale de Montpellier – CJLM



The Liberal Jewish Community of Montpellier (CJLM) Shema Kolenou has existed in Montpellier since 2005.

It is Rabbi Josué FERREIRA who has been with us for several years.

Since last year, the Rabbi student Lena ARAVA has also honored us with her presence.

We celebrate feasts and services in the presence of Rabbi Joshua or Lena.

In Montpellier we participate in all Judaism institutions:

- the CRIF, the Jewish Cultural Center, Maimonid Institute...

We develop and organise two events each year with other associations:

- The Jewish Tales and Music Festival;
- Jewish Worlds Book Fair.



Regional Reports

FRANCE

Dauphiné Liberal Jewish Community (CJLD)

During the year 2025, we held Friday evening services every two weeks (excluding holidays), as well as services for all religious festivals, with the assistance of the Liberal Rabbinical Seminary of Paris and Rabbi François Garaï.

We extend our sincere thanks to them! The CJLD was also present in Geneva for the JFLF gatherings.

Finally, the CJLD is participating in the exhibition “A Jewish History – 2,000 Years of Ties Between the Rhône and the Alps,” which started on November 28, 2025, and runs until September 21, 2026.



FRANCE

Keren Or

The past year has seen continuing activity and developments with a new board and president and the arrival of a second rabbi.

Since January, rabbi Daniela Touati has acceded to her request for a reduction of her working time, now sharing the post with Israeli rabbi Lila Veissid, whose warmth and approach have made it easy for the community to welcome her and adapt to the changes. The two rabbis are content working together and Keren Or also has its ‘homegrown’ student rabbi Cécile Bruriah Gonçalves.

President Andras Barta has taken over from outgoing president Elsa Pawloff di Paolo, who remains active in supporting various activities. There has been a reshuffling of the boards of both Keren Or and the CPJL, the cultural branch of the community.

Both elements have seen a wide range of activities on top of the Shabbat and festival services and celebrations with regular Kabbalat Shabbat dinners, an active Talmud Torah, a range of evening or Sunday afternoon talks, interfaith meetings and a very dynamic theatre group which this year again delighted the audience.

Two of our younger members have benefitted by leadership programmes within the French-speaking European and WURJ networks, thus nourishing the future and our dynamic younger members !



Regional Reports

FRANCE

Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg (UJLS)



The Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg (UJLS) has been active for 30 years. It is the only Progressive Jewish community in the whole of northeastern France.

The Jewish community of Strasbourg is sizeable, with a notably growing ultra-Orthodox population. The local context is particularly distinctive, as under the Concordat system the rabbis of the Consistoire (the central Jewish organization established by Napoleon, and now Orthodox in orientation) are paid by the French state. As a Progressive community that does not belong to the Consistoire, we do not benefit from this support.

Our community brings together approximately 100 families, including many international families whose members work for the European institutions.

The UJLS is a strongly family-oriented community that enables its members to practice Judaism in an egalitarian, pluralistic, and open-minded environment. In 2022, we joined Judaïsme En Mouvement (JEM), the umbrella organization that brings together a number of Progressive Jewish communities across France.

We do not currently have a full-time rabbi. However, we are supported by Rabbi Jonas Jacquelin of Judaïsme En Mouvement (JEM), who serves as our affiliated rabbi. We also welcome a hazzanit once a month. In addition to leading services, she teaches bar and bat mitzvah preparation classes as well as introductory courses on Judaism. Furthermore, we regularly organize services led by members of the community.



We are particularly attached to the so-called "Alsatian" or "Consistorial" hazzanut tradition, associated with figures such as Samuel Naumbourg and Samuel David, especially during the High Holy Days. Our community includes several talented singers and musicians who help preserve and enrich this distinctive liturgical heritage.

Our members are highly engaged in Jewish life in Strasbourg and throughout Alsace, whether in the fields of culture, heritage preservation, interfaith dialogue, or representative bodies that liaise with public authorities.

GERMANY

Union Progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ)



The year 2025 and the first months of 2026 were an eventful and successful period for the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany (UpJ), its member communities, and affiliated organisations.

Our legal disputes with the Federal Ministry of the Interior continued: both the lawsuit before the Berlin Administrative Court and the constitutional complaint before the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe remain pending, with no date yet set for a decision.

Community growth & Presidents' Day:

In June 2025, the Liberal Jewish Community of Oldenburg was admitted as UpJ's 20th member community during our Presidents' Day, held in Bad Segeberg and Kiel and attended by 54 delegates from 18 communities and 3

affiliated organisations. The programme included a workshop on patrilineal descent, a talk by Rabbi Jonah Sievers, and a presentation by UpJ-Netzer. The Israel-Jacobson Medal was awarded to Rinah Neubauer (Sukkat Schalom, Berlin) and to our Netzer director Evgeniya Rozental for her outstanding contribution to youth work.

UpJ also continued its long-standing support for Jewish immigration from the former Soviet Union, submitting around 320 applications on behalf of Jewish refugees from Ukraine.

Together with EURJ and WUPJ, we continued fighting to secure the future of our member, the Abraham Geiger Kolleg.

In October 2025, UpJ delegates returned to WUPJ's Connections conference in Jerusalem for the first time in years.

Youth work (UpJ-Netzer): Led by youth director Evgeniya Rozental and Rabbi Alina Treiger, UpJ-Netzer had a strong year: the Summer Machane "Chalutz" (117 participants, including first-time delegations from the Czech Republic, Switzerland, and Hungary), the Winter Machane "Massoret" (64 participants), two Rimonim seminars for young adults in Nuremberg/Fürth and Munich, and, for the first time, the "Jewish Knowledge" seminar (25 participants) at the Abraham Geiger Kolleg in Potsdam. Nine future madrichim completed their training through the ZWST's Midor Ledor programme.

Israel-Jacobson Prize: On 18 March 2026, at a ceremony at the Centrum Judaicum in Berlin, we were proud to award our biennial Israel-Jacobson Prize to Federal Minister Karin Prien – the first Federal Minister of Jewish descent in the history of the Federal Republic. UpJ's citation recognised her outstanding contribution to liberal Judaism, to strengthening Jewish life in Germany in all its diversity, and to interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

For more information, please contact Irith Michelsohn, Chair of UpJ Germany: vorstand@liberale-juden.de



Regional Reports

HUNGARY

Bét Orim Community



Jewish holidays are fully observed; Purim Megillah readings and Passover Seder dinners run at maximum capacity, with 190–200 people. Our annual fully-booked summer Bánk shabbaton draws 150 participants. Membership grew 10% last year, currently reaching 150 members.

In 2025, we celebrated 13 B'nei Mitzvah, launched a mentor program using trained community professionals to support and integrate new members and conversion candidates.

For the third year, our partnership with Scheiber Jewish School utilizes our community as a designated synagogue for an entire grade (40 children).

In January 2026, we published a new, unified Siddur for weekday and Shabbat liturgies; we are planning our holiday Machzor.

We are deeply embedded in Hungarian Jewish life, collaborating with local NGOs and attending international conferences (Connections2025, Darkeinu 2026).

Bét Orim holds services at JCC Bálint Ház.

Weekly activities feature Kabbalat Shabbat (60–80 attendees) and Shabbat Shacharit (12–15 participants, increasing significantly for Bar/Bat Mitzvahs).

Monthly programs include Wednesday Shacharit with a stable minyan and Havdalah services.

Weekly education offers online classical Hebrew, hybrid Jewish studies/conversion courses, and biweekly Raj Tamás Academy lectures.



On a small budget, finances remain stable through MAZSIHISZ, refund of 1% of the personal income tax, donations, and membership fees. We apply for grants from WUPJ, EURJ, and MAZSÖK, while seeking further funding. Our three permanent staff—a full-time Rabbi, a secretary, and an administrator (20 hours each weekly)—total 16,423,000 HUF (€ 43200) in 2025 (50% of expenses). Other fees apply only to lectures/childcare; our 7-member board serves uncompensated.

For 2026, we prioritize organizational development, professional communication—including a new website and enhanced social media—and expanding global Progressive partnerships.

ITALY

Federazione Italiana per l'Ebraismo Progressivo (FIEP)



The Federazione Italiana per l'Ebraismo Progressivo (FIEP) unifies a dynamic network of seven Progressive communities across Italy, fostering religious, educational, and cultural growth.

FIEP now has a seat as an observer in UCEI. The new elected UCEI board seems to be more open to cooperation with FIEP. FIEP, Lev Chadash and Beth Shalom Milan organised a very successful Shabbaton to celebrate 25 years of the founding of the Milan communities and Progressive Judaism in June 2026.

Milan: (**Lev Chadash**) Anchored by Rabbi Martina Yehudit Loreggian and Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild, Lev Chadash offers regional conversion programs for Bologna and Bergamo, Brescia and Turin, hosts school outreach initiatives, and organises interfaith conferences. Lev Chadash shares its synagogue premises with Beth Shalom Milan, led by Rabbi Goor, forming an interesting local Progressive hub.

Milan (**Beth Shalom**) Beth Shalom Milano is a warm, vibrant and cosmopolitan community, where spiritual leaders Rabbi Don Goor and Cantor Evan Kent bring engaging leadership, learning and music to the congregation. Beth Shalom is committed to fostering a meaningful, accessible and Progressive approach to Jewish life and tradition in Italy, creating a welcoming space where members of the community can connect, learn, celebrate and grow together.

Bergamo & [Brescia (**Har Sinai**) Established in 2018, this group organises bi-weekly Shabbat services and holiday events for over 40 active members.

They won a provincial tender to host the European Day of Jewish Culture, focusing on music and philosophy, and are actively collecting regional liturgical music for the wider FIEP network.

Turin (**Chadash Kedem**) the Progressive Community in Turin was established in 2023 and is growing its membership and is active in both religious and cultural activities. The cooperation extended by Lev Chadash Milan in terms of religious activities is very beneficial.

Bologna (**Or Ammim**): Operating as a vibrant cultural centre, its annual agenda includes history, holocaust remembrance events, civic leadership courses, and heritage tours.

Rabbi Shlomo Zagman leads extensive Jewish learning tracks and conversion classes, building strong connections with the wider local population.

Florence (**Shir Hadash**): Shir Hadash is a pluralist, multilingual community serving members across Tuscany for over two decades. They conduct independent services, run adult and youth education programs, and manage regional medical coordination for FIEP congregations.

Rome: (**Beth Hillel Rome**): Keeps on growing its membership and is very active in religious and cultural activities. Rabbi Joel Oseran's, years of experience and service in the reform movement, is a pivotal force of inspiration to the board.

Beth Hillel Rome has bought the premises for its community and is now launching a fund raising campaign for the restructuring and refurbishment of the new place. Beth Hillel Rome operates a successful Sunday School involving more than 45 children.

Milan and Rome: (**Lev Chadash and Beth Hillel**): Lev Chadash and Beth Shalom are working on the new Italian Progressive siddur.

Arzenu, Netzer, Tamar and Moshe House Good developments have been shared with Arzenu. Netzer and Tamar Italy have been organising interesting activities in cooperation with the Italian congregations and FIEP. Moshe House in Rome is led by reform young adult leaders.

We thank EURJ for the continuous inspiration and support. FIEP Leadership

Regional Reports

LUXEMBOURG

Liberal Jewish Community of The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



The year 2025 was one of consolidation, renewal, and transition for the Liberal Jewish Community of Luxembourg. Following the landmark celebrations of our synagogue's 70th anniversary and 225 years of modern Jewish life in Luxembourg in 2024, this year allowed us to focus on strengthening the relationships that define our community, deepening our programming, and preparing for the next stage in our development.

One of the defining features of the year was a significant transition in the leadership of our congregation. A newly elected Board of Directors has assumed responsibility for guiding the community forward, bringing with it renewed energy, fresh perspectives, and a strong commitment to expanding both our religious and communal programming. While periods of transition naturally present challenges, they also provide opportunities for reflection, innovation, and growth. Our new leadership has embraced this responsibility with enthusiasm and a clear vision of strengthening our support for our members while continuing to contribute positively to Luxembourgish society as a whole.

As part of this transition, we also wish to express our sincere gratitude to our outgoing President, **David Weis**, whose years of dedicated service helped shape the modern Liberal Jewish Community in Luxembourg. His steady leadership, thoughtful guidance, and unwavering commitment enabled the congregation to grow in confidence and visibility while establishing meaningful relationships with civic leaders, government institutions, and Progressive Jewish partners throughout Europe. We thank David for his extraordinary contribution and are pleased that his experience and wisdom will continue to benefit the community in the years ahead.

Community life remained vibrant throughout the year. We celebrated all major Jewish festivals together, including communal Sedarim for Pessah, High Holy Day services, and holiday meals that continue to bring members and friends together in an atmosphere of warmth and inclusion. Rather than measuring our success simply by numbers, we have focused on deepening the relationships within our congregation—creating a community where members increasingly know, support, and care for one another. This strengthening of personal connections remains one of the defining characteristics of our community.

Jewish learning continues to be one of our highest priorities. During 2025, we further invested in our Talmud Torah and youth programming, recognising that meaningful Jewish education is essential to the long-term vitality of Progressive Judaism in Luxembourg. Through the dedication of our volunteers and lay leaders, these programmes continue to mature and provide an increasingly engaging educational experience for our youngest members and their families.

NETHERLANDS

Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism



The Dutch Union for Progressive Judaism, known as Verbond, consists of ten congregations in The Netherlands. Governance is performed by the Executive Board and Management Committee which also has overarching responsibility for its associated organizations like the Levisson Institute, Sja'ar Publishing House, Netzer and the Rabbinical College. The Verbond publishes a quarterly magazine about Progressive Jewish life in The Netherlands and the annual Joman. het Verbond also hosts the annual Oneg Shabbat for all congregations. het Verbond maintains its own representatives within boards of all major Dutch Jewish organizations

In the 2025 calendar year, a policy plan for 2025 was adopted. It sets out the pillars underpinning our activities, which are described in more detail in our internal annual report:

- **Strengthening internal connections; pooling and sharing knowledge:**
- **External representation and advocacy:** f.e. Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Justice and Security

- **Our own policy priorities:** Netzer, young people
- **Compliance and good governance**

An issue that occupied us in 2025 was the very strong rise in antisemitism especially in big cities like Amsterdam etc.

These are developments that affect us deeply, even though we cannot directly influence them ourselves. Fortunately, the Central Jewish Board (CJO) is actively engaged in these matters and is deeply involved in the campaigns it conducts; it has serious contact in The Hague with various government bodies and institutions, universities, legal proceedings, and other initiatives. With unwavering energy, the CJO continues to stand up for the Jewish community, for which we are immensely grateful.

As members of all our cherished LJG communities, we come together in our synagogues, celebrate Shabbat, the High Holy Days and many other holidays and activities. It is important to be together, to talk to one another, to find support in each other, to feel safe and to feel understood.

Policy, Priorities and Approach

Continuing our work with young people and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Netzer, including its financial sustainability, has also received considerable attention. We are also looking for people who are interested in pursuing rabbinical training or completing specific modules within the rabbinical programme. With several of our rabbis approaching retirement age; it is particularly important to ensure that we have sufficient capacity and continuity for the coming years. As the organization responsible for representing the Jewish denomination within the spiritual care services, het Verbond remains in regular dialogue with the Ministry of Justice and Security. Over the past year, we have also held discussions with the National Police concerning Jewish spiritual care and related matters.

Regional Reports

PORTUGAL

Comunidade Judaica Hehaver



COMUNIDADE JUDAICA HEHAVER – SINAGOGA OHEL JACOB

The past year has been both exceptionally challenging and deeply rewarding for our community. In October, our synagogue suffered a catastrophic flood that caused the ceiling of our prayer room to collapse, forcing us to suspend all services. Fortunately, with the generous assistance of the Comunidade Israelita de Lisboa (CIL), Lisbon's Orthodox Jewish community, we were able to safeguard our Sifrei Torah. After extensive efforts, we reopened for Chanukah with a wonderful and joyful celebration led by Rabbi Alona. Unfortunately, again heavy rains in February caused the ceiling to leak continuously once again, and we were

forced to close the synagogue for a second time. During the following two months, our friends at CIL generously welcomed us into their premises, allowing our religious and communal activities to continue without interruption, including Purim. We were able to return to our own synagogue shortly before Pesach and, despite some remaining problems with the building, have remained open ever since. Remarkably, these difficulties have not prevented our community from flourishing. This year we held our largest Pesach celebration ever, with more than 70 people attending our communal Seder.

Our regular religious life continues with weekly Friday evening services and a monthly Shabbat Shacharit service. We have also celebrated three Bar and Bat Mitzvah ceremonies during this period. As for learning actions, R. Alona, besides the Rosh Chodesh monthly Limuds, has started a program for Jewish parenting and a cantillation course, all shared with the communities in Spain. Also we have been having local weekly 30 minutes of Torah remote sessions, that have been very well received by the community. Most encouragingly, our community continues to grow, welcoming new participants and strengthening existing connections. We are now preparing enthusiastically for the forthcoming High Holidays and look forward to another year of Jewish life, learning, celebration, and community in Lisbon.

SLOVENIA

Liberal Jewish Community of Slovenia (LJCS)



The past year marked an important period of growth and visibility for the Liberal Jewish Community of Slovenia (LJCS) and the Jewish Cultural Centre Ljubljana (JCC Ljubljana). Despite the continuing challenges facing Jewish communities across Europe, particularly the increase in antisemitism following October 7, our community continued to expand its cultural, educational and religious activities while strengthening international partnerships.

A major milestone was the continued development of the Jewish Museum of Slovenia and preparations for its new permanent exhibition, presenting over 2,000 years of Jewish presence in the territory of present-day Slovenia. The exhibition combines historical research, personal testimonies, multimedia installations and educational programmes, creating the country's first comprehensive permanent presentation of Jewish history in Slovenia.

The JCC Ljubljana remained a vibrant

centre of Jewish life, welcoming thousands of visitors, school groups, researchers and international delegations. Educational programmes focusing on the Holocaust, antisemitism, Jewish identity and intercultural dialogue continued throughout the year, alongside commemorations of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Yom HaShoah and other important dates. The community also organised exhibitions, concerts, theatre performances and public discussions that brought Jewish culture closer to the wider Slovenian public.

An important part of our religious life has been our close cooperation with Progressive rabbis across Europe. We are especially grateful to Rabbi Dr Alexander Grodensky, who regularly visits Slovenia from Luxembourg to lead services, teach and strengthen our growing community. We also deeply appreciate the continued support of Rabbi Tobias Divack Moss and Cantor Lea Kalish from Or Chadasch, Vienna, whose visits and spiritual leadership have become an important part of our Jewish calendar and our connection to the wider European Progressive Jewish family.

The community has also strengthened its international engagement through the European Days of Jewish Culture, cooperation with Jewish organisations across Europe and active participation in the work of IHRA and initiatives combating antisemitism and promoting Jewish life.

As one of Europe's youngest Progressive Jewish communities, we are grateful for the support of the EUPJ and look forward to contributing even more actively to the future of Progressive Judaism in Europe.

For more information:
Liberal Jewish Community of Slovenia

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Regional Reports

SPAIN



Also, first ceremony of zaved habat (a gift of a daughter) has been a new milestone for our growing congregation.

BEIT RAMBAM, SEVILLA

Rabbi Lisitsa has attended for Hanukkah program, 2025. Adult beit midrash, children's activity and communal Hannukah candles lighting draw many old and new members of all ages.

Also, two bat mitzvot have been celebrated.

SHIR JADASH, VALENCIA

Almost a year after the Torah scroll was donated by Temple Emanuel of Greater New Haven, led by Rabbi Michael Farbman, a Leo Baeck graduate, we have an opportunity to read from the scroll on Yom Kippur, 2025 and Shavuot, 2026. Rabbi Farbman has read Ten Commandments from this scroll in the USA for the last time during Shavuot, 2025, and Shir Jadash has completed the cycle with the reading too this year.

BEIT JANUKA, ROTA

Ahuvah Gipson and Deborah Rios Rey, the leaders of the congregation, in collaboration with Rabbi Lisitsa have launched an illustrated seria of children's activity booklets for the Torah portions. The booklets were kindly translated into Portuguese by Israel Falcao, the President of Ohel Yaakov, Lisbon.

<https://www.amazon.com/>



UNITED KINGDOM

Movement for Progressive Judaism



helping communities meet growing regulatory demands while remaining focused on Jewish life.

It has also invested in leadership, equipping both clergy and lay leaders with the confidence and skills to lead.

At its inaugural Movement conference, Hineinu and Shirei Chagigah, hundreds of people from across the UK and Ireland came together to pray, learn and celebrate.

Through Open Houses, Leadership Check-Ins, the Community Forum and visits to communities across the country, it has created more opportunities to share ideas, strengthen relationships and learn from one another as one national Movement.

This is the first year of The Movement for Progressive Judaism in the UK and Ireland, as it begins to lay the foundations for Progressive Jewish life for generations to come.

The Movement's first priority has been strengthening its communities. Alongside congregations, it has developed stronger support for governance, safeguarding, HR, finance, compliance and trustee development,

The Movement has worked to ensure that Progressive Judaism is represented confidently in Jewish and public life. It has contributed a Progressive Jewish voice in Parliament, across the media and through interfaith partnerships,

offering leadership rooted in Torah, committed to justice and unafraid of complexity.

Through its website, newsletters, podcasts, videos, social media and public events, the Movement is reaching more people than ever before.

Its first fundraising dinner raised more than £2.2 million, its social media has generated well over a million views, and Progressive Judaism has featured in hundreds of broadcast interviews and media articles.

The Movement continues to invest in the future through its youth movements, new student initiatives and programmes that welcome the next generation into Progressive Jewish life, while remaining committed to a Judaism that is open and accessible to all.

Alongside all of this has been the quieter, ongoing work of bringing together two organisations, two staff teams, two systems and two proud legacies into one Movement.



Regional Reports

UNITED KINGDOM

Westminster Synagogue

This has been another vibrant and fulfilling year for our community, thriving under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Kamila Kopřivová, Rabbi Rose Prevezer and Emeritus Rabbi Thomas Salamon. From inspiring High Holy Days and joyful Pesach celebrations to an expanding programme of learning, culture and outreach, the year has reflected the strength and confidence of our progressive Jewish community.

Our flourishing teens programme, culminating in a memorable trip to Amsterdam, has strengthened friendships and Jewish identity, while our Young Professionals community, Next Dor, continues to grow, reflecting our central London location. We are also proud to be a community where so many people choose to begin or deepen their Jewish journey through conversion and affirmation.

Our annual Czech Scrolls Commemorative Service honoured the Jewish communities of Píseňice, Hořovice, Horažovice and Boskovice, from where our Torah and Haftarah scrolls originate, remembering those whose communities were destroyed while celebrating the resilience and continuity of Jewish life.

Throughout the year we hosted symposia exploring antisemitism, the situation in the Middle East, Jewish humour and other contemporary issues. We also welcomed more than 600 students through educational school visits, championed Jewish art and culture, and found joy in learning and singing together – expressing our Judaism with confidence, pride and openness.

We were delighted to welcome delegates from the Darkeinu Conference for Shabbat and a tour of the Memorial Scrolls Trust Museum, strengthening our connections across the WUPJ and EUPJ family. As we look ahead to celebrating our 70th anniversary in 5788, we do so with gratitude for all that has been achieved and excitement for the opportunities to come.



Seminaries

FRANCE

L'Ecole de Rabbinique Paris (ERP)



A HISTORICAL MILESTONE AND VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The ERP is entering its eighth year of existence with unprecedented momentum following its historic first ordination ceremony last September. This landmark event represents a major turning point for Liberal French-speaking Jewry, breaking a 51-year void during which no Liberal rabbis were trained or ordained on French soil. To honor this powerful moment of transmission, Rabbi François Garaï, an alumnus of the historic Institut International d'Etudes hébraïques—France's previous Liberal seminary founded by Rabbi André Zaoui before closing its doors towards the end of the 1960s—attended to inspire the new generation and its four pioneer graduates: Rabbi Ruth Levy, Rabbi Jérôme Szenberg, Rabbi Stéphanie van Tittelboom, and Hazan Alexandre Cerveux.

We were delighted to have the EUPJ represented by its treasurer, Pierre Elkaïm, and President Phyllis Dorey for the WUPJ. In the past seven years, we have been honored to welcome more than 60 professors from Paris, the UK, USA and Israel to teach our students.

Today, the ERP trains over twenty rabbinical students, cantorial students, and auditors through a comprehensive five-year curriculum that balances academic rigor with vital pastoral skills. Offered both in person and online, this program allows students to serve on field placements across French-speaking congregations aligned with the Fédération du Judaïsme Libéral, Judaïsme en Mouvement, and the Massorti movement.



Demonstrating its ongoing innovation, the school also launched the Zamarei Tefila program this year, bringing together 18 participants eager to deepen their knowledge of liturgy and leading services. The Ecole Rabbinique de Paris remains deeply grateful for the unwavering support of the EUPJ as we work together to shape and inspire the community leaders of tomorrow.



Seminaries

GERMANY

Abraham Geiger Kolleg (AGK)



In 2025, the Abraham Geiger College succeeded in maintaining and further developing its rabbinical and cantorial training programs. All seminars and events in both programs and at three different levels took place as usual; students were in Israel and took part in conferences, or visited communities.

We are currently working on the curricula in independent, equally represented committees. In doing so, we keep the standards of Liberal Judaism in mind, particularly the duality of academic theological and practical rabbinical training.

The demand for our programs is there: We have admitted a total of eight students for the summer and winter semesters of 2025.

We thank the EUPJ's Rabbinic Training Fund once again for providing support to rabbinic students who have no other sources of income or scholarships!

We thank the Women of Reform Judaism for their support.

In Germany, students also can apply for scholarships from the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk.

On November 6, 2025, the AGK held an ordination ceremony for two female rabbis in the presence of more than 25 rabbis and cantors, including numerous members of the college's alumni, which now totals 57.

Dr. Gideon Joffe, Chairman of the Jewish Community of Berlin, AGK's sponsor, welcomed the guests. Speeches were delivered by Bodo Ramelow, Vice President of the German Bundestag, and Federal Minister Karin Prien, Minister for Education, Family, Seniors, Women, and Youth as well as by Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, Chair of the EUPJ. Rabbi Lea referred in her welcoming remarks to the first ordained female rabbi and noted „Where women in the rabbinate raise their voices, compassion is no longer seen as a weakness—empathy becomes a form of strength.”



We would love to not only achieve what is possible under adverse circumstances, but also get the most out of our institution for rabbinical and cantorial training in Germany and Europa – your support is extremely valuable for us on this way!



NETHERLANDS

The Levisson Institute



The reporting year saw its climax on 1 February 2026 with the ordination of Asjer Waterman by Rabbi Menno ten Brink, Dean of the Levisson Institute. From June 2026, Asjer succeeded Rabbi Marianne van Praag as rabbi in the Liberal Jewish Community of The Hague.

During the past year, two new students began the rabbinical training programme. The revised study guide, using the various roles of the rabbi as a framework, is complete. We launched a course on Liberal Judaism, covering the history and many different aspects of Liberal Judaism. The course was also open for non-rabbinical students.

The Levisson Institute regularly organises courses for lay people whenever there is a demand. In the reporting year, we continued the Ba'al Tefilah course particularly where there is a need for people who can lead services in the absence of a rabbi. Participants studied Shabbat and festival services, practised leading services, delivering divrei Torah, and completed internships within their own congregations. Most students now regularly lead services in the various kehillot.

Later in the year we organised a Ba'al Korei course. Full of enthusiasm participants are now leyning in their own shuls.

Ten years ago, the Institute recorded the entire Torah to support Torah readers and Bar/Bat Mitzvah children. It was chanted according to the Dutch Progressive tradition. In 2025, the Haftarah project was launched. All Haftarat for the year, including those for special Shabbats and festivals were recorded and placed on the website: www.levisson.nl

The Levisson Institute is delighted that like the other European rabbinical seminaries, they also became an independent member of the EUPJ during the reporting year. In June 2026 we participated in the EUPJ conference in London.



Seminaries

UNITED KINGDOM

Leo Baeck College



ORDINATION

The highlight of the 2024/25 academic year was the ordination of two new rabbis. The service, held at Finchley Reform Synagogue (FRS), was co-led by Rabbi Debbie Young-Somers, Rabbi Aaron Goldstein and Cantor Zoe Jacobs.

Rabbi Dr Hannah Altorf was ordained by Rabbi Miriam Berger, and Rabbi Andrea Kulikovsky by Rabbi Professor Deborah Kahn-Harris. The service also marked the 50th anniversary of the ordination of the first woman rabbi in the United Kingdom, and the address on behalf of the College was fittingly delivered by that rabbi, Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick. Rabbi Professor Deborah Kahn-Harris and Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh also took part. Rabbi Altorf has since joined the clergy team at Edgware and Hendon Reform Synagogue, and Rabbi Kulikovsky the clergy team at The Ark Synagogue.



In February 2026, following 18 months of planning and construction, the College opened the new Lily Montagu Reading Room. Its collection of over 60,000 items — one of the great hidden treasures of Anglo-Jewry — spans more than 500 years and every aspect of Jewish life, thought and culture, from prayer books that survived the trenches to twenty-first-century feminist Talmud commentary. The project began in 2024 with a gift from an anonymous donor and was completed with additional grants from the Rothschild Foundation, the Manor House Trust, and the NLPS Trust for Progressive Judaism. The room is named in honour of Lily Montagu, the first woman to play a major role in Britain's Progressive Jewish movement.



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at 31st December 2025

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EUPJ is an affiliate of the World Union for Progressive Judaism