

EUROPEAN
UNION
FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



EUPJ ANNUAL REPORT 2022

ANNUAL EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY MEETING
THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2023
5 PM BST



CONTENTS

Page 3	Office Holders and Staff at 31 December 2022
Page 4	Message from WUPJ
Page 6	Chair's Report
Page 8	Finance Report
Page 11	Stichting (Foundation) Report
Page 15	European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA)
Page 17	European Beit Din (EBD)
Page 18	Central European Beit Din (CEBD)
Page 19	EUPJ Communities
Page 24	Notice and Agenda
Page 27	Minutes of the European Assembly – September 2022
Page 33	Contact information

OFFICERS & STAFF AT DECEMBER 2022

Honorary Life Presidents:

Leslie Bergman
Ruth Cohen

President:

Gordon Smith

Vice-President:

Miriam Kramer

Co-Chair

Sonja Guentner

Co-Chair

Robert Weiner

Vice-Chair, Finance:

Paul Winter

Vice-Chair, Governance:

John Cohen

Vice-Chair, Education and Interfaith:

Rabbi Menno ten Brink

Convenor, European Beit Din:

Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick

Chair, European Rabbinic Assembly:

Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild

Board Members:

Stéphane Beder

David Bernstein

Rabbi Charley Baginsky

Arthur Buchman

John Clark

Tamás Gróf

Fabio Benjamin Fantini

Anton Fishman

Peter Jossi

Michel Kahn

Irith Michelsohn

Celia Naval

Sven Parsser

Rabbi Drs Edward van Voolen

David Weis

WUPJ President:

Rabbi Sergio Bergman

WUPJ Chair:

Carole Sterling

Support:

Administrator:

Deborah Grabiner

WUPJ'S MESSAGE



The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ) is proud to continue to strengthen its bond with the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ). Together, we foster the growth of Progressive Judaism, creating connections among regions and communities worldwide.



Connections 2023 took place in May 2023 and was the first gathering in six years that assembled global Progressive leadership. With a turnout of 260 attendees, a third of whom were under 35, this event served as a platform for networking, learning, and inspiration. The event was a profound celebration of the shared values and concerns of the global Progressive Jewish community. It marked the 75th anniversary of Israel, the 50th anniversary of the WUPJ headquarters' relocation to Jerusalem, and was a testament to the global Progressive Jewish family's strength and unity.

In 2022, the EUPJ and WUPJ established the Ukraine Crisis Fund in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Our immediate engagement allowed us to meet urgent needs of those affected. We provided assistance to individuals and families who fled to safety and supported their resettlement in welcoming communities. Our assistance to those who stayed in Ukraine was also vital.



The past year has been a period of remarkable growth for our youth through Netzer Europe, welcoming Netzer Italia as our tenth branch at the Ve'ida in Israel in September 2022. We have held enriching events including Summer and Winter camps, inspiring Shabbatonim, and a seminar in Budapest that fostered strong inter-chapter connections. The network of Tamar chapters for young adults is growing and the Netzer World Veida and Tamar Gathering in Israel in May 2023, representatives from all our branches united to discuss our values and progressive activism. This progress has been demonstrated by our participation in Connections 2023 in Jerusalem, and we look forward to further growth and unity in Netzer Europe.

The Beutel-Bergman Seminars in July 2022 and May 2023 provided a platform for participants to experience diverse best practices of Progressive Jewish leadership around the globe. They honed their leadership and were offered resources to comprehend Israel's complexities, promoting engagement with the country. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with lay leaders worldwide, fostering a community of mutual support. The seminar also facilitated the development of personal projects or ideas through mentoring and a cohort incubator.

Rabbi Sergio Bergman
President

Carole Sterling
Immediate Past Chair

Phyllis Dorey, OAM
Chair

CHAIR'S REPORT

EUROPEAN
UNION
FOR
PROGRESSIVE
JUDAISM



In February 2022, war returned to Europe. Russia's aggression against Ukraine has since cost and threatened the lives, health and safety of hundreds of thousands of people and brought destruction on an unimaginable scale with it, also endangering our ten progressive congregations in Ukraine, their members and lay and professional leadership.

The World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), in close partnership with the EUPJ, took the lead immediately in joining the international efforts to support those directly affected by the war and established the Ukraine Crisis Fund (UCF) as a global fundraising initiative. The UCF has since raised more than \$ 2,2 million and the generous support from all donors, including very many from Europe, is most gratefully acknowledged here.

The UCF has been providing crucially important help to many victims of the war. A detailed report of the nature and scope of all supported programmes in 2022 can be accessed here <https://wupj.org/ukraine/report/> and I would like to particularly highlight the efforts made by EUPJ congregations in Spain, Poland and Germany, which are aimed at providing help, care and a hopeful perspective to refugees planning to return to Ukraine when that will be possible as well as to those who have decided on building their future in a new country.

It was a privilege for me to join other members of the senior leadership of the World Union for Progressive Judaism on a mission to Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany over Passover 2022. Celebrating *sedarim* in Warsaw and Prague with Rabbi Stas Wojchiechowicz and Rabbi David Maxa, their congregations and the refugees they were providing shelter to was an unforgettable experience for us all.

Operations at the EUPJ have continued seamlessly throughout the year, even allowing for a first in-person Management Committee meeting in London in July, after an all too long time of online meetings. However, the Covid-19 aftermath situation very sadly still did not allow us to plan for a major European gathering in 2022.

The European Assembly meeting in September 2022 formally started the transition in our lay leadership and I would like to acknowledge the crucial work done by our President, Gordon Smith, in chairing the nominating committee, and by the VC Governance, John Cohen, in ensuring transparency and compliance. Particular thanks go to first Robert Weiner and then Miriam Kramer for their willingness to co-chair the organisation during this

important phase and all who have since stepped up to take on positions of leadership and responsibility for our movement. It is my great hope, as this organisation's first continental chair, that the European dimension of our work, across the United Kingdom and all other member countries, will continue to grow for many years to come.

Finally, it is my privilege to thank, once more, everyone at the EUPJ and the WUPJ for the work we were able to do in partnership in 2022 and the many wonderful individuals in all associated organisations, including the EUPJ Foundation, ERA (European Rabbinic Assembly), the EBD (European Beit Din) and the CEBD (Central European Beit Din) who live up to the spirit and values of Progressive Judaism and spread its light. It has been an honour to work with you all.



Sonja Guentner
EUPJ Chair/Co Chair

FINANCE REPORT

Provided below are tables reflecting the income and expenditure of the EUPJ for 2022 and comparative figures for 2021. The final table reflects our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021, together with a summary of the main events that contributed to the annual results.

EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2022			
		2022	2021
	% of Total	£	£
Income			
Affiliation fees	24%	58,280	65,867
Donations	0%	200	11,172
Interest	0%	1,030	465
Other Income	0%	655	-
Roswell Fund	16%	37,812	26,187
Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE) Fees re Programme	0%	200	7,939
Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE)(Monies refunded)/Grant received	1%	3,560	52,243
Breslauer	9%	21,864	13,534
Know Your Neighbour	6%	13,835	3,454
Rabbinic Training Fund (RFT)	10%	23,995	23,176
Ukrainian aid donations	31%	76,482	-
European Beit Din (EBD)	2%	5,788	683
Total	100%	£ 243,701	£ 204,720
		2022	2021
	% of Total	£	£
Expenditure			
Administration	22%	32,467	40,569
(Gain)/Loss on Exchange	-3%	(3,897)	3,962
Roswell Fund	16%	23,675	23,744
Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE)	4%	5,540	58,102
Breslauer	16%	24,692	23,345
Know Your Neighbour	9%	14,017	3,260
Rabbinic Training Fund (RFT)	12%	18,000	31,552
Donations	0%	0	3,462
Conference & Shabbaton	0%	-	-
EUO and Other Payments	0%	-	-
Supporting Communities	10%	14,369	6,284
European Beit Din (EBD)	4%	5,788	-
Ukrainian Appeal Distribution and Costs	10%	15,351	-
Total	90%	£ 150,002	£ 194,280

EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2022			
		2022	2021
		£	£
Income		243,701	204,720
Expenditure		150,000	194,280
Surplus		£ 93,699	£ 10,440

EUPJ Balance Sheet 2022			
		2022	2021
		£	£
Assets			
Debtors		85,686	17,644
Cash		475,624	427,998
		£ 561,310	£ 445,642
Liabilities			
Creditors		£ 2 19,484	£ 197,516
Net Assets		£ 341,826	£ 248,126
Funds			
Unrestricted		194,206	181,768
Restricted		147,621	66,358
		£ 341,827	£ 248,126

FINANCIAL REPORT - NARRATIVE

1. The surplus on Unrestricted funds for the year was £12,436 (2021: £16,373).
2. The surplus on Restricted funds was £81,263. (2021: Deficit £5,933). This includes donations received in respect of the Ukrainian Emergency Appeal of £76,482 (2021 :£-).
3. The total surplus for the year was £93,699 (2021: £10,440) which includes the Ukrainian Emergency Appeal of £76,482 which has been transferred in 2023.
4. Affiliation fees for the year totalled £82,275 (2021: £89,043). These include the fees for the Rabbinic Training Fund of £23,995 (2021: £23,176).
5. The European Beit Din income for the year was £5,788, which was £2,507 higher than the previous year.
6. Administration expenses for 2022 totalled £28,568 (2021: £54,277).
7. £5,540 (2021: £58,102) of costs were incurred in relation to the Baalei Tefillah Europe (BTE) programme. These are included under administrations costs within the Statement of Financial Activities. Grants and fees of £3,760 (2021: £60,182) were received towards this programme.
8. There was a £3,897 profit on exchange in the year. These are included under administrations costs within the Statement of Financial Activities.
9. Bank balances at 31 December 2022 were £475,624 (2021: £427,998).
A difference of £47,626.

A copy of the certified accounts can be viewed [here](#).

For more information, please contact Paul Winter
Email: Treasurer@eupj.org

STICHTING (FOUNDATION) REPORT

The EUPJ Brussels office closed down in 2022 as the operational base of the foundation moved to Amsterdam.



This project was funded by the European Union's Citizens, Equality, Rights, and Values Programme (CERV) (2021-2027)

The main focus of the EUPJ Foundation has been the Flagship Neighbours project. This aims to tackle antisemitism and islamophobia within the European Union through the building of cross religious community coalitions and engagement with local schools and youth organisations.

The project has been 90% funded by the European Commission with each partner having to provide a 10% self-donation. The communities of Beth Shalom in Munich, Beth Hillel Rome, Keren Or in Lyon, Jüdische Gemeinde haKochaw für den Kreis Unna, Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Amsterdam & Communauté Juive libérale Île-de-France & Or Chadasch in Vienna.

The 2 year program is managed by HIAS Europe and the EUPJ foundation. Key dates so far have been:

- May 2022: Kick off meeting with all parties in Amsterdam
- November 2022: Training camp in Brussels facilitated by LJC, EUPJ Foundation & HIAS
- November 2022: Facebook and website setup for the international initiative.
- December 2022: English version of education manual for the communities produced.





[Comunità Ebraica Beth Hillel Roma](#) just hosted another successful scriptures discussion, with more than 40 participants representing Judaism, Islam and Christianity. This edition's theme was Praise. Well done!



In Vienna, [Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Wien - Or Chadasch](#)'s interfaith coalition is making strides



Neighbours Education Manual



Training in LJG Amsterdam



Networks Overcoming Antisemitism is a pioneering approach to address and tackle rising antisemitism in Europe. Through a unique partnership of major Jewish networks, NOA evaluates EU Member States' policies across major critical areas — from education to culture to security — and helps develop holistic national action plans to address antisemitism.

The EUPJ Foundation is partnered with four other founding organisations, including the World Jewish Congress (WJC), the European Association for the Preservation and Promotion of Jewish Culture and Heritage (AEPJ), B'nai B'rith Europe, and the European Union of Jewish Students (EUJS). It is coordinated by CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe.



NOA (Networks Overcoming Antisemitism) European Conference in Brussels

Joined by 100+ Jewish organisations, policy-influencers, and public authorities to discuss the tools for countering antisemitism and fostering ✡ life in Europe.

NOA partners CEJI - A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe, EUJS - European Union of Jewish Students, AEPJ, B'nai B'rith Europe, European Union for Progressive Judaism - EUPJ.

For more information, questions, please contact
Jonathan Eaton Jonathan.Eaton@eupj.org



Since the EUPJ AGM August 2022 we prepared for 5783 by producing a meditation for every day of Elul, written by a large number of colleagues from across the region and published on our website and publicised on our social media.

We also began work on our new constitution and this is ongoing work for us.

We continued monitoring the situation at Geiger Kolleg and supporting students as well as rabbinic colleagues. We were encouraged that the Zentralrat initiated a legal investigation and are hopeful that report will be published. We contributed to the list of people to whom Rabbi Yoki Amir would speak and to report back to both EUPJ and WUPJ. We await the publication of this report.

We have continued to offer to support rabbinic training in Germany, but this offer has not been accepted.

During Chanukah we published a reading for each night on our website and publicised through our social media. This again was received well by those who used the readings.

Our Continuing Rabbinic Education programme has developed interesting shiurim. So far 14 different shiurim have been offered to colleagues, as well as the Talmud class.

We clarified with EUPJ Management Committee the role of ERA as rabbinic advisor to the EUPJ. This now parallels the role that the Rabbinic Assembly and Rabbinic Conference have with their respective movements

In February, we held our AGM which was very well attended online. Afterwards Rabbi Dr Michael Marmur spoke on the Jewish value of Hogenet followed by a lively debate.

In February, we also held our webinar about Israel, in conjunction with Arzenu. Originally planned as a rabbis only meeting, we were pleased to extend the webinar to EUPJ and its communities, and a successful event was held with Rabbi Gilad Kariv MK and Anna Kislanski CEO of IMPJ.

We were pleased to offer a meditation for every day of the Omer – a marathon for us – again with contributions from colleagues across the continent and with a variety of approaches.

In June, we held Pride Shabbat, led from Kingston Synagogue by Rabbi Dr Rene Pertz and Rabbi Adrian Schell, with input from Rabbi Judith Rosen Berry, Rabbi Ariel Friedlander, Rabbi Josue Ferreira and Rabbi Bryan Doyle-du Breil. About 50 people attended in person and a further 80 online from many different countries.

We are planning a kallah about the Batei Din in Europe, to know more about each other's cultural expectations and clarifying the role of the EBD going forward after the retirement of Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick, so that we can continue to offer the service that is so important to our communities.

We are planning a programme for rabbis for Yamim Noraim to share resources etc and stimulate thinking.

We have met monthly throughout the year, progressing projects such as the new constitution, ongoing rabbinic education, relationships with EUPJ, networking and supporting colleagues and communities, as well as providing resources for colleagues and EUPJ communities. It has been a full and busy year, some elements of our work has been deeply painful and traumatic, others joyful and stimulating, and I am very grateful for the support and work of both the Board of ERA and of the colleagues across the continent of Europe.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild

Email: contact@eupj-ra.eu

Website: <http://www.eupj-ra.eu/>

EUROPEAN BEIT DIN

The European Beit Din resumed its work last year in person, though with the establishment of the Central European Beit Din, our work is much curtailed. We now operate mostly in Italy, Spain, Portugal and have begun to help in the Nordic countries.

As you can see from the chart, 7 courts were convened, only one of them in Europe, in Milan, the rest of the cases were seen in London.

In 2022 a total of 26 applicants were accepted. The demographic breakdown is as follows:

	2022	2021
No. of Proselytes accepted (including minors):	26	22
Finland	0	0
Italy	24	9
Norway	1	0
Portugal	0	3
Spain	0	6
Poland	1	0

The case in Norway was very sad. A woman had been studying for years with Rabbi Esther Hugenholtz, who has for several years kept up a regular correspondence with the candidate from her job in the USA. Unfortunately, the candidate suddenly contracted an aggressive form of cancer so at Rabbi Hugenholz's request, we held a zoom conversion for her as she lay dying in hospital.

We very much thank Lynsey Goodmaker for her help in the office and those rabbis who donate their time to make sure that these candidates can be seen.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Jackie Tabick

Email: rabbijackie@rjuk.org

CENTRAL EUROPEAN BEIT DIN (CEBD)



In 2022, the Central European Beit Din (CEBD) continued its work for Progressive Jewish communities in the Czechia, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. The mission of the CEBD is to support the development of Progressive Judaism in Central Europe by facilitating gyurim and status recognitions and, when needed, religious divorces as well as providing rabbinic responses for Jewish communities.

In the course of 2022, three CEBD meetings took place: the first one in Bratislava on 2 and 3 March, the second one in Prague on 15 and 16 May and the third one in Krakow on 30 and 31 October. During these meetings, the CEBD dealt with more than 50 gyur cases from all the above-mentioned countries.

Rabbi David Maxa, the Convenor of the CEBD, would like to thank Rabbi Dr Thomas Salamon for his dedicated service as the very first Av Beit Din of the CEBD in the Jewish year 5782 and congratulate to Rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz, who was elected as the Av Beit Din for 5783. Many thanks go to all CEBD Rabbis for an excellent cooperation and commitment as well as to Mr Daniel Rux, the Administrator of the CEBD, for his great administrative help and support.



CEBD Prague



CEBD Bratislava



CEBD Krakow

(Left to Right)

Prague - Rabbis Misha Kapustin, Tom Kučera, David Maxa, Stas Wojciechowicz

Bratislava - Rabbis Misha Kapustin, Anita Kantor, David Maxa, Stas Wojciechowicz

Krakow - Administrator Daniel Rux, Rabbis David Maxa, Thomas Salamon, Stas Wojciechowicz

For more information, please contact Rabbi David Maxa.

Email: david.maxa@ecchajim.cz

Austria

Jewish Liberal Congregation - Or Chadasch Vienna and Austria

Belgium

Communauté Israélite Libérale de Belgique (Beth Hillel)

IJC Brussels

Czech Republic

Bejt Simcha

Ec chajim Praha

Jewish Community of Liberec

ZLU – Hatikva

Denmark

Shir Hatzafon

France

Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral (AJL)

Alliance pour un Judaïsme Traditionnel et Moderne (AJTM)

Association des juifs libéraux de Toulouse (AJLT)

Communauté Juive Libérale Dauphine à Grenoble

Communauté Juive Libérale de Montpellier

Kehilat Geshar - Communauté Juive Franco-Anglophone de Paris

Kehilat Kedem - Synagogue Libérale de Montpellier

Keren Or, la Synagogue Libérale de Lyon

La Communauté Juive Libérale - Île de France

Le Mouvement Juif Libéral de France (MJLF)

Maison du Judaïsme Libérale à Toulouse

Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg

Union Libérale Israélite de France (ULIF)

Germany

[Union Progressiver Juden in Deutschland \(UpJ\) K.d.ö.R.](#)

Egalitäre Jüdische Chawurah Gescher Freiburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Ahrensburg – Stormarn

Jüdische Gemeinde – Bad Pyrmont

Jüdische Gemeinde – Bad Segeberg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Celle

Jüdische Gemeinde – Elmshorn

Jüdische Gemeinde – Göttingen

Jüdische Gemeinde HaKochaw - Unna

Jüdische Gemeinde – Hameln

Jüdische Gemeinde – Kiel
Jüdische Gemeinde zu Magdeburg
Jüdische Gemeinde – Pinneberg
Jüdische Gemeinde – Seesen
Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Bielefeld Beit Tikwa
Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Emet weSchalom Kassel
Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Köln Gescher La Massoret
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Lübeck
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Mischkan ha-tfila – Bamberg
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde – Hamburg
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Beth Shalom München
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Hannover Etz Chaijm
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Ruhrgebiet Perusch
Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Wolfsburg-Braunschweig
Menorah – Jüdische Gemeinde zu Bremerhaven
Reformsynagoge der Jüdischen Gemeinde Hamburg
Synagogengemeinde Sukkat Schalom Berlin
Unabhängige Synagogengemeinde Berlin Bet Haskala

Hungary

Bet Orim Reform Jewish Congregation
Szim Salom Congregation

Italy

[Federazione Italiana per l'Ebraismo Progressivo \(FIEP\)](#)

Beth Hillel, Roma
Beth Shalom, Milan
Lev Chadash, Milan
Or'Ammim, Emilia Romagna
Shir Hadash, Firenze

Luxembourg

Communauté Israélite d'Esch-sur-Alzette

Netherlands

Beit Ha'Chidush

[Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom \(NVPJ\)](#)

Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Alkmaar
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Amsterdam
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Brabant
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Den Haag
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Gelderland
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Rotterdam
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Twente
Liberaal Joodse Gemeente Utrecht
Progressief Joodse Gemeente Midden Nederland
Progressief Joodse Gemeente Noord Nederland

Poland

Ec Chaim Synagogue and Centre for Progressive Judaism of the Jewish Community of Warsaw

Or Hadasz – Association of Progressive Jews in Krakow

[Beit Polska – The Union of Progressive Jewish Communities in Poland](#)

Beit Konstancin – Progressive Jewish Community of Konstancin
Beit Trójmiasto – Progressive Jewish Community of Gdańsk, Gdynia and Sopot
Beit Warszawa – Progressive Jewish Community of Warsaw

Portugal

Assoc.J.I.Hehaver (Ohel Yaakov)

Republic of Ireland

Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation

Spain

Comunidad Judía Bet Januká de Andalucía

Comunidad Judía Bnei Israel de Galicia

Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom

Jewish Community of Valencia Bnei Sefarad

Jewish Congregation Beit Rambam of Andalusia

Reform Jewish Community of Madrid

Sweden

Progressive Judaism in Stockholm

Switzerland

[Platform of Liberal Jews of Switzerland \(PLJS\)](#)

Communauté Juive Libérale de Genève (GIL)

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Or Chadash Zürich

Migwan - Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Basel

United Kingdom Independent Synagogues

Belsize Square Synagogue

Westminster Synagogue

[United Kingdom - Liberal Judaism](#)

Bedfordshire Progressive Synagogue

Beit Klal Yisrael

Birmingham Progressive Synagogue

Brighton & Hove Progressive Synagogue

Bristol & West Progressive Jewish Congregation

Crawley Jewish Community

Crouch End Chavurah

Ealing Liberal Synagogue

East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue

Eastbourne Progressive Jewish Congregation

Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community

Finchley Progressive Synagogue

Kehillah North London

Kent Liberal Jewish Community

Kingston Liberal Synagogue

Leicester Progressive Jewish Congregation

Lincolnshire Jewish Community

Mosaic Liberal Synagogue (Harrow)

Norwich Liberal Jewish Community

Nottingham Progressive Jewish Congregation

Oxford Jewish Congregation

Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community

Reading Liberal Jewish Community

South Bucks Liberal Jewish Community
Southgate Progressive Synagogue
South London Liberal Synagogue (Streatham)
Stevenage Liberal Synagogue
Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community
The Ark Synagogue (formerly Northwood & Pinner Liberal Synagogue)
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue (St John's Wood)
The Liberal Synagogue Elstree
Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community (Gloucestershire and Herefordshire)
Wessex Liberal Jewish Community
York Liberal Jewish Community

United Kingdom - Movement for Reform Judaism

Alyth Synagogue, London
Beit Shalom Reform, Cambridge
Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation
Bournemouth Reform Synagogue
Bradford Tree of Life Synagogue
Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue
Bromley Reform Synagogue
Cardiff Reform Synagogue
Coventry Reform Jewish Community
Darlington, Beit Shalom
Edgware & Hendon Reform Synagogue
Finchley Reform Synagogue
Glasgow Reform Synagogue
Harlow Jewish Community
Isle of Wight Jewish Society
Kehillat Kernow - The Jewish Community of Cornwall
Kol Chai - Hatch End Jewish Community
Liverpool Reform Synagogue
Maidenhead Synagogue
Makor Hayim, London
Manchester Reform Synagogue
Menorah Synagogue - Cheshire Reform Congregation
Milton Keynes & District Reform Synagogue
Mosaic Reform Synagogue, London
Ne've Shalom, Hull
Newcastle Reform Synagogue
North West Surrey Synagogue
Radlett Reform Synagogue
Seven Hills, Sheffield Reform
Sha'arei Shalom – North Manchester Reform Congregation
Sha'arei Tsedek - North London Reform Synagogue
Sinai Synagogue, Leeds
South Hampshire Reform Jewish Community
South West Essex & Settlement Reform Synagogue
Southend and District Reform Synagogue
Southport Reform Synagogue
Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue, London

Swindon Jewish Community
Thanet & District Reform Synagogue - Etz Chaim
Tivah Chadasha, Shenfield & Brentwood
Totnes Reform Jewish Group
The Wimbledon Synagogue



For EUPJ Communities, please click [here](#)
For WUPJ Communities, please click [here](#)

NOTICE & AGENDA FOR EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY

Registered Charity No 253000

EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Administration Office: The Sternberg Centre for Judaism 80 East End Road London N3 2SY England

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the **Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism** ("EUPJ") will be held on Thursday 31 August 2023 at 5pm BST/6pm CEST. This meeting will be held electronically via Zoom – See full note at end of Notice.

AGENDA

1. **Welcome, Opening Prayer and Apologies** for absence.
2. **The Minutes (a copy of which accompanies this Notice) of the Special Meeting of the European Assembly** held via Zoom on 20 July 2023.
3. **Welcome** and brief presentation on the World Union for Progressive Judaism by **Phyllis Dorey**, the Chair of the WUPJ and **Rabbi Sergio Bergman**, the President of the WUPJ.
4. Presentation and consideration of the **Chair's Report for 2022 by the Chair, Miriam Kramer**, on the past year's activity of the Management Committee and Executive Board. (The full Chair's Report will be included with all the other reports in the 2022 Annual Report, which will be made available on the EUPJ website before this meeting). Some brief supplementary comments will be presented by the Chair under this agenda item.
5. Consideration and approval of the **Examined Annual Accounts of the EUPJ for 2022** (the Accounts). The Accounts will be available for inspection on the EUPJ website by no later than 21 August 2023. The Treasurer's Report to be presented at the Meeting, together with a brief financial summary, will be included in the 2022 Annual Report.
6. **Resolution to ratify the appointment of the Examiner of the 2022 Accounts and to appoint the Examiner of the 2023 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2023 annual accounts of the EUPJ, be ratified and that the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2023 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."

7. **Presentation on the EUPJ Search & Nominations Committee** by **Gordon Smith**, the President of the EUPJ. A report regarding the Search & Nominations Committee (including lists of the individuals recommended by the committee and their profiles) is [attached](#) to this Notice
8. **Resolution to ratify the Appointments to the EUPJ Executive Board** – To appoint or to ratify the appointment of the following Officers, office holders and nominated representatives to the Executive Board, and for which no other nominations were received:
 - a. As President - **Miriam Kramer**
 - b. As Chair – **Rabbi Lea Muehlstein**
 - c. As Vice Chair, Finance – **Pierre Elkaim**
 - d. As vice Chair, UK Reform and Liberal Movements Liaison – **Ian Lancaster**
 - e. **Ex Officio and Representative Appointees** – the names of which will be provided at the Meeting
9. **Rabbinic Matters** – brief presentations from the EUPJ European Rabbinic Assembly, the European Beit Din and the Central European Beit Din.
10. **EUPJ Stichting/Foundation** – brief presentation on the activities of the Stichting
11. **Other EUPJ Reports and Updates**
12. **Any Other Business.**

BY ORDER OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Jonathan Eaton – Vice-Chair Governance Dated: 1 August 2023.

Note:

- (1) **Online Meeting Only** - This meeting will not be in person, but will be held electronically via Zoom, as it was in 2022.
- (2) **Constituent Members - Registration and Attendance - Only Delegates appointed by Constituent (full) Members (Constituent Delegates) may attend and vote at the Meeting.** A Constituent Delegate Appointment Form is attached as **Schedule 1** and must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org as soon as possible but by no later than 25 August 2023. Each Constituent Delegate will then receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 25 August 2023, and this link must not be shared.
- (3) **Associate Members** – Associate Members may appoint one Delegate each to attend the meeting, but such delegates are not entitled to vote. An Associate Delegate Appointment Form is attached as **Schedule 2** and must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org as soon as possible but by no later than 25 August 2023. Each Associate Delegate will then receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 25 August 2023, and this link must not be shared.
- (4) **Guests and Invitees** - Should Constituent or Associate Members wish to invite delegates in excess of the number permitted in the Constitution, then they should request permission from the EUPJ ManCom by contacting administrator@eupj.org with the name and contact details of the delegate in question. Such person, if permitted to attend, will receive a separate email link which must not be shared, and may only attend as an observer and shall not be entitled to speak or vote.
- (5) **Voting** – Constituent Delegates will be able to vote on resolutions by using the “Zoom Polling system”, as we did in 2022 and which will be explained during the meeting.
- (6) **Proxy** - A Constituent Delegate who is unable to attend the meeting of the European Assembly, may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her place provided that notice of intention to appoint a proxy has been received by the Administrator at the above address not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting.

SCHEDULE 1, 2 & FORM OF PROXY



Schedule 1

Constituent Delegate appointment form. A Constituent Delegate appointment form must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org by no later than 25 August 2023. Each Constituent Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 25 August 2023, and this link should not be shared



Schedule 2

Associate Members may appoint one delegate each to attend the meeting, but such delegates are not entitled to vote. An Associate Delegate appointment form is attached as **Schedule 2** and must be completed and returned to administrator@eupj.org by no later than 25 August 2023. Each Associate Delegate will receive an email link to the Zoom meeting by no later than close of business on 25 August 2023, and this link should not be shared.



Form of Proxy

A Constituent Delegate who is unable to attend the meeting of the European Assembly in person, may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her place provided that notice of intention to appoint a proxy has been received by the Administrator at the above address not less than 48 hours prior to the start time of the meeting

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING 20 APRIL 2023

EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

Minutes of the special single purpose meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) held electronically via Zoom on Thursday 20 April 2023 at 17H00 BST.

Present: EUPJ Chair Sonja Guentner and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various Constituent Members and Associate Members of EUPJ, as well as invitees as follows: Leslie Bergman (EUPJ) United Kingdom, David Bernstein (PLJS) Switzerland, John Clark (Or Chadash Vienna) Austria, John Cohen (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Jonathan Eaton (EUPJ) Netherlands, Fabio Benjamin Fantini (Beth Hillel Rome / FIEP Italy) Italy, Frantisek Fendrych (Jewish Liberal Union in the Czech Republic) Czech Republic, Anton Fishman (Leo Baeck College) United Kingdom, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein (Liberal Judaism) United Kingdom, Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Rabbi Alexander Grodensky (Liberal Jewish Community Luxembourg) Luxembourg, Peter Jossi (PLJS) Switzerland, Miriam, Kramer (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Ian Lancaster (Movement for Reform Judaism) United Kingdom, Paul Langsford (Movement for Reform Judaism) United Kingdom, Alexander Laugier-Werth (Communaute Israelite Liberale de Belgique (Beth Hillel) Belgium, Veronika Lederman (Beth Hillel-IJC) Belgium, Irith, Michelsohn (Union for Progressive Judaism in Germany) Germany, Andrés B. Mosquera (IJC Brussels) Belgium, Celia Naval (Keren Or) France, Daniel Schaban (Union for Progressive Judaism in Germany) Germany, Gordon Smith (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Ekaterina Solodkaia (Union for Progressive Judaism in Germany) Germany, Fredy Sussman (Kehila Bnei Israel) Spain, Rabbi Menno ten Brink (LJG / Stichting) Netherlands, David, Weis (Liberal Judaism Luxembourg) Luxembourg, Paul Winter (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Jonathan Wootliff (Ec chajim) Czech Republic, Dominika Zakrzewska (Beit Polska) Poland.

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

The Vice Chair Governance advised that a quorum was present. The President, Gordon Smith, welcomed everyone to the special single purpose meeting of the EUPJ European Assembly Meeting, held entirely online. The President mentioned that the meeting was being recorded for minute purposes and that the recording would be deleted as soon as the minutes were prepared. Apologies had been received from Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick, Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild and Carole Sterling.

The President then introduced Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, who made the opening prayer. The Chair also introduced John Cohen (EUPJ Vice-Chair Governance) who explained the system of voting to be implemented for resolutions using the Zoom Polling System, with the kind assistance of Deborah Grabiner.

2. **Approval of Minutes of the 2022 European Assembly Meeting held via Zoom**

The President advised that the minutes of the European Assembly Meeting held via Zoom on 8 September 2022 which had been attached (via a Link) to the Notice before the meeting. In response to his request, the President had not received any comments or suggestions for changes to the Minutes, which were duly accepted as a correct record of the meeting and were then signed by the President, the resolution to approve them having been proposed by Benjamin Fantini and seconded by John Clark.

3. **Presentation of the Search and Nominations Report by EUPJ President**

The President advised that the full report and recommendations of the Search and Nominations Committee, together with the Profiles of the various nominees were attached (via a link) to the Notice before the meeting. The President advised that he would supplement the Report with some brief additional comments and then he would take questions.

Gordon Smith reported that the committee was set up in September 2022 with Co-Chairs, Rabbi Thomas Salamon and Robert Weiner, but due to personal reasons Robert Weiner had to step down in the December from all his positions at the EUPJ. This left the EUPJ in a serious situation. Robert was chair of the Search and Nominations Committee so there was no one to drive the work of the committee forward, he was EUPJ's liaison with Liberal and Reform Judaism and thirdly he was Co-Chair with Sonja Guentner and was going to continue as Chair, if he had been nominated at today's meeting. The President thanked Miriam Kramer for agreeing to be nominated as Chair in Robert's place and thanked John Cohen for stepping up to jointly run the Search and Nominations Committee with him. The committee were also thanked for working very hard to produce the slate of nominations for the meeting. The President believed that the list of nominations was very strong and would help EUPJ's Management Committee to continue to grow after the meeting.

The President reminded the meeting that at the next Annual General Meeting to be held in August 2023 that there will be three vacancies: Chair, Vice Chair Finance and President. Gordon Smith had been elected, in some capacity, to the Management Committee for the past twenty years and it was time for him to retire. The meeting noted that there will be no UK representation on the committee bearing in mind that with the recently announced partnership of the two UK movements that it will become the largest synagogugual movement in Europe. Both the President and Miriam Kramer asked the meeting to return to their communities and organisations to search for new nominations for these vital and important vacancies. There were no questions raised from the floor.

4. **Resolution 4a: To extend the period during which the Search and Nominations Committee will operate**

The President, Gordon Smith, invited the meeting to approve and ratify that the period during which the Search and Nominations Committee (as established by the 2022 EUPJ European Assembly Meeting) will operate, be extended to the date of the 2023 EUPJ Annual European Assembly meeting, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by David Bernstein and seconded by Celia Naval. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Resolution 4b: To appoint Miriam Kramer as Chair of the EUPJ.

The President invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Miriam Kramer be and is hereby appointed as Chair of the EUPJ, subject to the proviso that this appointment shall end at the 2023 EUPJ Annual European Assembly Meeting by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by John Clark and seconded by Gordon Smith. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Gordon Smith then invited the newly elected Chair to take over the meeting. Miriam Kramer thanked the meeting. She would address the meeting after the business of the meeting had been completed.

Resolution 4c: To extend the term of office of Gordon Smith as EUPJ President

The Chair, Miriam Kramer, invited the meeting to approve and ratify that the term of office of Gordon Smith as EUPJ President, which should have ended at the meeting, be and is hereby extended and shall now end at the 2023 EUPJ Annual European Assembly Meeting, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by Benjamin Fantini and seconded by Miriam Kramer. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Miriam Kramer thanked the meeting and was delighted that Gordon Smith would remain as EUPJ President until the 2023 Annual European Assembly Meeting.

It was noted that each of the following appointments to the Management Committee would take effect at the end of the meeting and the first term of such an appointment would be until the 2025 European Assembly Meeting so that they run for the same period as all other appointments.

Resolution 4d(i): To appoint Jonathan Eaton as the new Vice Chair Governance of the EUPJ

The Chair, Miriam Kramer, invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Jonathan Eaton be and is hereby appointed as a member of the EUPJ Management Committee as Vice Chair Governance and that the first term of this appointment shall end at the 2025 Annual European Assembly, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by John Cohen and seconded by Gordon Smith. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Resolution 4d(ii): To appoint Dominika Zakrzewska-Oledzka as Vice Chair Communications of the EUPJ.

The Chair, invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Dominika Zakrzewska-Oledzka be and is hereby appointed as a member of the EUPJ Management Committee as Vice Chair Communications and that the first term of this appointment shall end at the 2025 Annual European Assembly, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by John Cohen and seconded by Gordon Smith. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Resolution 4d(iii): To appoint Ben Fantini as the Vice Chair Israel of the EUPJ

The Chair, invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Fabio Ben Fantini be and is hereby appointed as a member of the EUPJ Management Committee as Vice Chair Israel and that the first term of this appointment shall end at the 2025 Annual European Assembly, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by Celia Naval and seconded by David Bernstein. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Resolution 4d(iv): To appoint Rabbi Alexander Grodensky as the Vice Chair Interfaith of the EUPJ

The Chair, invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Rabbi Alexander Grodensky be and is hereby appointed as a member of the EUPJ Management Committee as Vice Chair Interfaith and that the first term of this appointment shall end at the 2025 Annual European Assembly, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by David Bernstein and seconded by Gordon Smith. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

It was noted that each of the following appointments to the Executive Board would take effect at the end of the meeting and the first term of such an appointment would be until the 2025 European Assembly Meeting so that they run for the same period as all other appointments.

Resolution 4.e(i): To appoint Fendrych Frantisek to the Executive Board as a Vice President of the EUPJ

The Chair invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Fendrych Frantisek be and is hereby appointed as a member of the EUPJ Executive Board and as a Vice President and that the first term of this appointment shall end at the 2025 Annual European Assembly, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by Gordon Smith and seconded by John Cohen. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Resolution 4e(ii): To appoint Sven Parsser (who is already a member of the Executive Board) as a Vice President.

The Chair invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Sven Parsser continue as a member of the Executive Board and also be appointed as Vice President and that the first term of this appointment shall end at the 2025 Annual European Assembly, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by David Bernstein and seconded by Gordon Smith. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Resolution 4e(iii): To appoint Andres B. Munoz Mosquera as a member of the Executive Board as Vice President

The Chair invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Andres B. Munoz Mosquera be and is hereby appointed as a member of the EUPJ Executive Board and as a Vice President and that the first term of this appointment shall end at the 2025 Annual European Assembly, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed

by Miriam Kramer and seconded by Gordon Smith. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

It was noted that the following appointments were lifetime appointments in recognition of their contributions to EUPJ and Progressive Judaism and of the esteem in which they are held. They join Leslie Bergman in this honorary role.

Resolution 4f(i): To appoint Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein as an Honorary Life President of the EUPJ.

The Chair invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein be and is hereby appointed as an Honorary Life President of the EUPJ, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by Miriam Kramer and seconded by Gordon Smith. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

Resolution 4f(ii): To appoint Rabbi Menno ten Brink as an Honorary Life President of the EUPJ.

The Chair invited the meeting to approve and ratify that Rabbi Menno Ten Bribe and is hereby appointed as an Honorary Life President of the EUPJ, by using the Zoom Polling system. The resolution was proposed by Miriam Kramer and seconded by John Cohen. The resolution was approved by the meeting.

5. Chair's Address

The Chair, Miriam Kramer, welcomed everyone, both new and existing members of the EUPJ Team. She was thrilled to have you all on board. Now that the meeting had endorsed the new committee, it fell to her to say a few words. Miriam thanked the meeting for having confidence in her to act as sole Chair for the next six months. She saw herself as a continuity person, as well as a transitional one. At the next Annual European Assembly, she hoped that there will be a new Chair of this wonderful organisation. The next expression of gratitude went to Sonja Guentner and Robert Weiner who Co-Chaired EUPJ before she took over. Their dedication, and despite the travails of Covid and other obstacles, the EUPJ was able to maintain its programmes and give support to our communities. The composition of the new Management Committee and Executive Board is due to the diligence of the Search and Nominations Committee. Initially, undertaken and chaired by Rabbi Thomas Salamon and Robert Weiner, to whom she was very grateful, it continued with John Cohen and Gordon Smith and a handful of people throughout the movement. She hoped everyone would agree that they have done an excellent job.

John Cohen who started out as Honorary Secretary, but evolved in the Vice Chair Governance, was so knowledgeable about the EUPJ constitution, charity law and much else that she suspected that he could write a book on all of them. Thanks seems so inadequate to express for all we owe you, but nonetheless, thank you.

She was very grateful that Gordon Smith had agreed to continue as President for the next six months. She confirmed that they worked well together and that was good news.

Miriam thanked EUPJ's Administrator, Deborah Grabiner. She is the public face of the organisation, the one that keeps us all on the straight and narrow, who finds the solutions to the most difficult challenges and is essentially the glue that keeps EUPJ together. Miriam thanked Deborah in a host of European languages
Miriam reminded the meeting of EUPJ's mission to foster and support Progressive Judaism throughout Europe. We all have a part to play in that ambition and she looked forward to working, as a team, to realise it.

The search and Nominations Committee were given the task to find new members of the Management Committee and Executive Board and to bring to the table diversity. She determined that this had been achieved. In previous reincarnations, those panels were justifiably criticised for being Anglo-centric. As the Management Committee now stands with each member holding a specific portfolio, there is only one 'Brit' on it, 'her'. The Executive Board also reflects the full European membership of the organisation and this was something that we should be very proud.

In conclusion, Miriam reminded the meeting that EUPJ's Treasurer had expressed his wish to retire. But has kindly agreed to remain in post until a new one is identified. We hope this will be before the next Annual Assembly and as she had already mentioned, she will be retiring in October so a new Chair has to be found. She echoed Gordon's plea to work through your communities to identify suitable candidates for both positions. Gordon Smith's term of office has been extended to work on this task and he would welcome any recommendations. Miriam reminded the committee that all of them could always contact the Management Committee members or Deborah, at any time, preferably on email.

Miriam thanked the meeting for listening to her and she looked forward to working together.

The meeting closed at 17:49 (BST).

.....
Chair of the European Assembly Meeting

EUPJ CONTACT



Miriam Kramer
President

Rabbi Lea Muehlstein
Chair
Lea.muehlstein@eupj.org

Deborah Grabiner
Administrator
administrator@eupj.org

Office Address:
The European Union for Progressive Judaism

The Sternberg Centre
80 East End Road
London N3 2SY
United Kingdom

Office Phone: +44 (0) 208 349 5651

Follow us on Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/EUPJ1/>

Check out the website
www.eupj.org

Registered Charity No: 253000

EUPJ is an affiliate of the World Union for Progressive Judaism

