

## **Announcement**

**Job Title:** Convenor of the European Beit Din

**Organisation:** European Union for Progressive Judaism

**Open for Application:** 23 December 2024

**Deadline:** 6 am CET 21 January 2025

**Type of contract:** Self-employed contractor

**Location:** Remote, with occasional travel for in-person meetings and events within Europe

**Role Purpose:** As a Convenor you will play an essential role in overseeing the administration and proceedings of the European Beit Din (EBD) of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ).

The EBD was formally established in 1993 as the rabbinic court of the EUPJ. It provides rabbinic services and guidance to those Progressive communities that are members of the EUPJ in countries where there is insufficient number of rabbis to form a national Progressive Beit Din. Occasionally, the EBD will consider cases from individuals in European countries where the EUPJ does not currently have a member community.

The Convenor of the EBD will be appointed by the Management Committee of the EUPJ. The Convenor will be under supervision by the Management Committee in questions of EBD governance, especially finance. In all religious matters the Convenor will work with the Board of the European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) and the Standing Committee of the EBD.

**Reporting to:** Chair of the EUPJ

**Supported by:** EBD Administrator

### **Key Responsibilities:**

1. Oversee and coordinate the EBD sessions.
2. Ensure that all candidates and cases receive appropriate guidance and support, in the area not served by a EUPJ rabbi appoint a sponsoring Rabbi to support the candidates for Giyur in their Jewish journey.
3. Maintain proper records of the EBD decisions and activities and ensure that all paperwork and reports are created in a timely manner, and work with the Israel Religious Action Centre (IRAC) to ensure that the documentation and processes required are appropriate and will support the process of Aliyah, should that be a possibility.
4. Act as a point of contact for people looking for a Progressive Jewish conversion in Europe, and direct candidates to the appropriate rabbi, community or Regional Beit Din.
5. Liaise with the EUPJ and other relevant bodies, advise rabbis of the EUPJ communities, on request, on Beit Din related matters.

6. Help ensure and, if necessary, coordinate and work with the existing Batei Din within the EUPJ for transparency and harmonisation of the standards and practices.
7. Implement decisions of the Standing Committee.
8. Be an ex-officio member of the Management Committee of the EUPJ and deliver a report on the EBD activities at least once a year and more on request of the Chair of the EUPJ.

**Person Specification:** The EUPJ is committed to promoting all aspects of equality and diversity and welcomes applications from all sectors of the rabbinic community.

**Essential Skills and Experience:**

1. Rabbinic ordination acceptable to ERA.
2. Commitment to the values and principles of Progressive Judaism, deep understanding of Progressive Halakhah, particularly as it pertains to conversion, personal status and divorce.
3. Strategic thinking and the ability to work effectively within a governance framework.
4. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to build relationships across diverse communities and countries.
5. Previous experience as rabbi serving a congregation within the EUPJ.
6. Previous experience of working with the Beit Din of their area and understanding of the processes and challenges.
7. Knowledge of European Jewish communities and an understanding of their unique challenges and needs.
8. Proficiency in English is essential. Multilingual skills, especially in languages commonly spoken in Europe, are highly advantageous.

**Time Commitment:** The likely overall time commitment required of the Convenor for the effective conduct of the duties of the position is 2-3 days per month. Including:

- Attendance of up to six EUPJ Management Committee meetings a year (usually by videoconference, 2 hours each, plus preparation time).
- Attendance at EBD sessions (4 times per year).
- Attendance of the Standing Committee meetings (as required, usually by videoconference).

The Convenor must be willing to travel, when necessary, to convene Batei Din, and to support Rabbis and communities relying on the EBD for their Beit Din needs.

**Remuneration:** This a self-employed contractor position paid according to the applicable Reform rabbinic scales in the UK. Reasonable expenses for travel, accommodation, and other costs incurred while carrying out Convenor duties will be reimbursed.

**Period of Engagement:** Appointment to the position is for an initial period of three years and the incumbent may be re-appointed by agreement of the EUPJ Management Committee.

**Application Process:** All applicants should apply via email to the chair of the EBD Convenor Nomination Committee Rabbi Alexander Grodensky (Vice Chair of the EUPJ) at [alexander.grodensky@eupj.org](mailto:alexander.grodensky@eupj.org).

All applications must include:

1. CV or resume
2. Cover letter explaining interest in the role and relevant experience
3. Application Form
4. Names of two rabbinic referees

Applicants will receive email confirmation of safe receipt of their application.

Initial and confidential enquiries regarding the role may be made to Rabbi Alexander Grodensky on +352 661 217 898 (also on WhatsApp, Signal and Theema).

**The closing date for applications is 6 am CET 21 January 2025.**

We anticipate interviews will be held in February 2025 by videoconference. The applicants will be notified by email whether they have been shortlisted for interview or not.

The EUPJ is a socially progressive organisation that strives to ensure equality of opportunity and celebrates the diversity of its leadership and staff.