

# EUPJ

EUROPEAN  
UNION  
FOR  
PROGRESSIVE  
JUDAISM



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

ANNUAL EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY MEETING  
SUNDAY 20 JULY 2025  
5 PM UK/6 PM EUROPE



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# OFFICERS & STAFF AT DECEMBER 2024

## Honorary Life Presidents:

Leslie Bergman  
Rabbi Menno ten Brink  
Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein

## President:

Chair  
Vice-Chair Finance  
Vice-Chair Governance  
Vice-Chair Interfaith  
Vice-Chair Israel  
Vice-Chair Reform and Liberal Judaism Liaison  
EUPJ Foundation Liaison  
Convenor, European Beit Din  
Chair, European Rabbinic Assembly

Miriam Kramer  
Rabbi Lea Mühlstein  
Pierre Elkaim  
Jonathan Eaton  
Rabbi Dr Alexander Grodensky  
Fabio Benjamin Fantini  
Ian Lancaster  
Paul Gompes  
Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick  
Rabbi Nathan Alfred

## Vice Presidents

Frantisek Fendrych  
Andres (B. Munoz) Mosquera  
Sven Parsser

## Board Members

Péter Árvai  
Stéphane Beder  
Rabbi Charley Baginsky  
Eliza Dorosz-Panek  
Michel Khan  
Rabbi Andreas Nachama  
Monique Nilsfor  
Anne Sebbag  
Daniel Schaban  
Andrew Solomon  
James Traeger  
David Weis

# WUPJ'S MESSAGE



The WUPJ sends warm greetings to our partners in the EUPJ. We open with prayers for the release of the Israeli hostages and the end of the war.

Please visit our [annual report](#) for a full picture of the WUPJ including ongoing relief and support for Progressive communities in Ukraine.

We invite you to get involved in the WUPJ as we expand our work in our mission to connect across the Progressive Jewish world, provide support and serve as a platform for ideas to empower “Global” Judaism.

The [Global Leadership Fellowship](#) is the WUPJ’s premier leadership training program in which eleven community leaders brought their leadership to the global level through webinars, an Israel seminar and three months of mentoring.

We were pleased to award grants to thirteen programs around the world for Local Leadership Development Initiatives Grants, enabling communities to provide leadership development that resonate with local language and culture. This includes four new Shlichei Tzibor Training Programs established around the world.

The WUPJ answered the call of leaders in the field and offered a webinar series on Progressive Zionism to widen our global dialogue and provide practical tools. We invite you to view the discussion on [defining Progressive Zionism](#) and on holding space for [principled debate](#).

Our Shlichut Hub matched spiritual leaders to small and emerging communities for the High Holidays and Pesach. We welcome communities who seek spiritual support to [be in touch](#) to access our database of rabbis and cantors.

We have begun global virtual forums for both Progressive Jewish day school leaders and educators in synagogues and supplementary schools, including a webinar on innovative Israel curricula. We invite all educators in large and small communities, paid and volunteer, to join our network.

[Netzer](#) and [Tamar](#) are growing in Europe and around the world. Tamar recently held a leadership retreat in Budapest. Summer and winter camps are flourishing. The WUPJ is proud to have supported youth exchanges between countries and would be happy to expand.

We hope to see many of you at [Connections 2025](#) this 22-25 October at the re-opened Beit Shmuel. We will kick off 100 years of the WUPJ and 50 years of the WUPJ headquarters in Jerusalem.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Rabbi Sergio Bergman, President

Phyllis Dorey, OAM, Chair



# CHAIR'S REPORT



Looking back at the year 2024, I am remembering particularly fondly our EUPJ Shabbaton, which brought together over 50 participants from eleven countries for a gathering that truly showcased the vibrancy and diversity of European Progressive Judaism. The presence of numerous young adult participants was particularly inspiring, fostering a diverse group that drew on the wisdom of the past while enthusiastically looking to the future. The Shabbaton was a resounding success, fostering cross-border connections and shared learning among Progressive Jewish communities. The diverse group, bolstered by the enthusiastic presence of young adults, exemplified the movement's commitment to building on its rich history while embracing the potential of the next generation. The high turnout for the Friday night service from the local community, combined with the collaborative spirit evident throughout the weekend, highlighted the enduring vitality of our movement. Participants departed with renewed energy, ideas, and commitments to strengthening

their communities and forging a brighter, united future.

The Shabbaton also served as a powerful reminder of the importance of gathering in person. We are therefore looking forward to coming together for an EUPJ conference celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the World Union for Progressive Judaism in London from 26 - 28 June 2026. Please make sure to share the date with anyone who might enjoy a wonderful weekend of celebrating Progressive Judaism.

We are particularly pleased that we continue to be able to support new emerging communities. As well as seeing our new associate members of 2024 flourish in Finland and Spain, with our congregation in Valencia celebrating the gift of receiving Torah just this month, we are happy to welcome new associate members in Slovenia, Georgia and Lithuania and a full member in Denmark (please take some time to read the community profiles). It is exciting to know that Progressive Judaism is further spreading across our continent, and we look forward to nurturing our emerging communities from associate to full membership in the EUPJ.

We also share in the joy of our UK movements who voted at the beginning of May to join efforts and unite under the name Movement for Progressive Judaism UK. We look forward to seeing Progressive Judaism grow from strength to strength under a united leadership.

I commend to you the wonderfully rich descriptions of activities across our region – there is no better testament to how much Progressive Judaism in Europe is thriving than the regional reports from our members.

With congregations and movements growing across our region, securing a strong rabbinic succession remains a top priority for us. Our region is now served by four seminaries – in Amsterdam, Berlin, London and Paris. We congratulate all ordinands of the seminaries and look forward to a new cohort of rabbis and cantors working with our communities. We are also pleased that three recent ordinands of the Progressive Rabbinic Seminary in Argentina are living in our region and wish those colleagues much success for their work. We are grateful to

the work of the European Rabbinic Assembly (ERA) for nurturing rabbis in Europe. A full report about the activities of ERA is included in this annual report.

Having reported already last year on the retirement plans of Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick as the convenor of the European Beit Din, we are pleased to be able to share that Rabbi Ruven Bar Ephraim has taken up the role and look forward to seeing him lead the important work of the Beit Din. We are grateful to Rabbi Dr Tabick for her wonderful work and her continued support in mentoring her successor. Please take a moment to read the full report from the European Beit Din.

Overseen by our Vice-chair of Governance, we are excited bring communities together in specially funded initiatives such as the Neighbours Project, which you can read more about in the governance report included further on.

Our Rabbinic Envoy to the EU, Rabbi Dr Brian Doyle-du Breuil, together with Paul Gompes, EUPJ's Vice Chair EU Relations and Projects, continue to represent the EUPJ at the EU level – their report speaks for itself. Likewise, Rabbi Dr Alexander Grodensky, Vice-chair for Interfaith Activities has contributed a full report.

All that remains for me to say is to thank the members of the Management Committee and the Executive Board of the EUPJ, in particular our wonderful President Miriam Kramer. We wish those members of the MC and EB, whose terms have come to an end or who are stepping down to prepare for new challenges, all the very best for the future and look forward to still being able to rely on their wisdom from time to time.

While 2024 was not necessarily the easiest year for Jewish life in Europe, I hope you agree that Progressive Judaism in Europe is continuing to thrive. We are proud that the EUPJ can play its part in supporting the continued growth of our movement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lea Mühlstein'.

Rabbi Lea Mühlstein (Chair EUPJ)

# FINANCE REPORT

Provided below are tables reflecting the income and expenditure of the EUPJ for 2024 and comparative figures for 2023. The final table reflects our Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024, together with a summary of the main events that contributed to the annual results.

| <b>EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2024</b> |                        |                 |                 |
|---|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|   |                        | <b>2024</b>     | <b>2023</b>     |
|   | <b>% of Total 2024</b> | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>        |
| <b>Income</b>                           |                        |                 |                 |
| Affiliation fees                        | 54%                    | 89,598          | 88,080          |
| Grants received                         | 7%                     | 12,167          | 23,944          |
| European Beit Din (EBD)                 | 5%                     | 8,393           | 10,090          |
| Other Donations received                | 3%                     | 5,039           | 20,284          |
| Conference Income                       | 4%                     | 6,600           | -               |
| Know Your Neighbour                     | 13%                    | 21,509          | -               |
| Breslauer                               | 0%                     | -               | 33,194          |
| Roswell Fund                            | 0%                     | -               | 110,598         |
| Roswell Capital Fund                    | 0%                     | -               | 45,329          |
| Leo Hepner Fund                         | 3%                     | 4,259           | -               |
| Ukrainian aid donations                 | 0%                     | 115             | 715             |
| Bad Debt recovery                       | 7%                     | 12,266          | -               |
| Interests & dividends                   | 3%                     | 5,757           | 4,269           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>100%</b>            | <b>£165,703</b> | <b>£336,503</b> |
|   |                        |                 |                 |
|   | <b>% of Total 2024</b> | <b>2024</b>     | <b>2023</b>     |
|   |                        | <b>£</b>        | <b>£</b>        |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                      |                        |                 |                 |
| Administration                          | 20%                    | 39,640          | 35,441          |
| European Beit Din (EBD)                 | 13%                    | 26,793          | 14,458          |
| EUO and Other Payments                  | 2%                     | 3,310           | 11,574          |
| Know Your Neighbour                     | 0%                     | 504             | -2              |
| Conference & Shabbaton                  | 9%                     | 18,930          | -               |
| Supporting communities & donations      |                        | 29,644          | 23,253          |
| Breslauer                               | 0%                     | -               | 35,247          |
| Rabbinic Training Fund (RTF)            | 0%                     | -               | 9,000           |
| Community Connections Travel Fund       | 0%                     | -               | -               |
| Roswell Fund                            | 37%                    | 75,032          | 20,919          |
| Ukrainian appeal distribution and costs | 0%                     | 2               | 57,692          |
| Leo Hepner Fund                         | 1%                     | 1,690           | -               |
| (Gain)/Loss on Exchange                 | 3%                     | 5,945           | 8,152           |
| <b>Total</b>                            | <b>85%</b>             | <b>£201,490</b> | <b>£215,734</b> |
|   |                        |                 |                 |

| <b>EUPJ Income and Expenditure 2024</b> |  |             |             |
|---|--|-------------|-------------|
|   |  | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|   |  | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| Income                                  |  | 165,703     | 336,503     |
| Expenditure                             |  | 201,490     | 215,734     |
| Surplus                                 |  | -£35,787    | £120,769    |
| <b>EUPJ Balance Sheet 2024</b>          |  |             |             |
|   |  | <b>2024</b> | <b>2023</b> |
|   |  | <b>£</b>    | <b>£</b>    |
| <b>Assets</b>                           |  |             |             |
| Debtors                                 |  | 10,509      | 2,466       |
| Cash                                    |  | 429,868     | 485,197     |
|   |  | £440,377    | £487,663    |
| <b>Liabilities</b>                      |  |             |             |
| Creditors                               |  | £13,569     | £25,068     |
|   |  |             |             |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                       |  | £426,808    | £462,595    |
| <b>Funds</b>                            |  |             |             |
| Unrestricted                            |  | 282,506     | 245,943     |
| Restricted                              |  | 144,302     | 216,652     |
|   |  | £426,808    | £462,595    |

## Summary

1. The net movement in Unrestricted funds in 2024 was £36,566 (2023: £51,735)
2. The Net movement in Restricted funds in 2024 was negative with -£72,350 (2023: £69 031)
3. Affiliation fees for the year totaled £89,598, which was some more than in 2023.
4. Grants received were £12,167. These are included within Other Donations and Legacies within the Statement of Financial Activities.
5. The project "Networks Overcoming Antisemitism" (NOA) received its final grant (£21,509), after many years of expenses, allowing a partial cover of all expenses (£7,580 left unrecovered).
6. Administrative expenses for 2024 totaled £39,640, an increase of £4,199, as compared to expenditure in 2023 due to in-person meetings starting again.
7. Money spent supporting communities in 2024 (£29,644), shows an increase of £6,391, in supporting activities of communities.
8. Money spent from Roswell funds in 2024 (£75,032), shows a new start of supporting activities in developing communities from Central Europe, Italy and Iberian Peninsula.
9. A Shabbaton conference was co-organised in Vienna together with Arzenu Olami, for which the accounts were balanced thanks to a grant from Arzenu.
10. Bank balances at 31 December were £429,868 (2023: £485,197), decreasing by -£55,329.



# GOVERNANCE REPORT

2024 marked a significant period of renewal and regional engagement for the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), characterised by increased participation from our constituent members and meaningful institutional developments.

One of the key milestones was the admission of Hehaver Ohel Yacob in Lisbon as Portugal's first full member community of the EUPJ, transitioning from associate status to full membership. In parallel, Portugal took a further step forward by electing its first representative, André Falcão of Hehaver Ohel Yacob, to both the EUPJ Executive Board and the European Assembly. This marks a pivotal development in ensuring broader representation across our region.

We also experienced a growing interest in membership from Eastern Europe. Communities in Slovenia and Lithuania are progressing through our affiliation process, with several expected to reach the point of full acceptance during 2025. This expansion reflects the continued growth and outreach of Progressive Judaism across Europe.

At the close of 2024, we bid farewell to two valued members of the Management Committee. Benjamin Fantini (Italy) stepped down to dedicate more time to his work within the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), and Dominika Zakrzewska (Poland) began a prestigious fellowship. We express our deep gratitude for their service, commitment, and voluntary contributions to European Jewish life. These positions are expected to be filled during 2025.

Recognising the evolving needs of our organisation, we have initiated a governance modernisation process. While the EUPJ Constitution has served us well over the years, steps are now underway to transition from our current legal status as an association charity to a more contemporary legal structure. This change will help position the EUPJ to better fulfil its mission as the umbrella organisation for Progressive Jewish communities across Europe, and we anticipate completion of this process in 2025.



Finally, 2024 saw the successful conclusion of the Neighbours Project, a joint initiative between the EUPJ and the European Union. Governance oversight & operational reporting was provided by the VC Governance in close coordination with the EUPJ Foundation and Management Committee member Paul Gompes. The project ensured full compliance with European Commission reporting regulations and included active participation from the following member communities: Beth Hillel (Rome), Or Chadasch (Vienna), Beth Shalom (Munich), HaKochaw (Unna), Maayan (Paris), Keren Or (Lyon), The International Jewish Center (Brussels), and The Liberal Jewish Synagogue (Amsterdam).

These developments underscore the strength of our governance structures, the vitality of our member communities, and our shared commitment to the promotion of Progressive Judaism throughout Europe.

# EU RELATIONS & PROJECTS

On 1-2 April 2025, Rabbi Dr Brian Doyle-du Breuil, EUPJ's Rabbinic Envoy to the European Union and Paul Gompes, EUPJ's Vice Chair EU Relations and Projects, represented the EUPJ at the second Civil Society Forum on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish Life in Brussels. The event brought together Jewish organisations and civil society groups to discuss the EU's two-pronged strategy: fighting antisemitism and promoting Jewish life.

Keynote presentations emphasised growing concerns about antisemitism since October 7, 2023, with statistics illustrating increased incidents across Europe and the UK. Hanna Veiler from the European Union of Jewish Students shared examples of exclusion and disconnect experienced by Jewish students, highlighting the pressing need for action despite some positive responses from government and law enforcement.

Workshops on the first day focused on online antisemitism, Holocaust distortion, radicalisation, and Jewish community security. The Antwerp Jewish Police unit was noted as an exemplary model for community-led security efforts. The second day shifted toward fostering Jewish life, with discussions on rebuilding alliances with groups that had distanced themselves post-October 7, empowering educators and students, and safeguarding Jewish heritage.

A closing plenary session explored ambitious visions for the future of Jewish life in Europe, including the potential restoration of its historical prominence. While some ideas were lofty, there was broad consensus that civil society must actively support and address antisemitism in all spheres, from education to politics. A lingering challenge remains how to restore pre-October 7 relations, given that many social justice groups have shifted focus and no longer prioritize antisemitism in their agendas.

Overall, the forum painted a stark yet necessary picture of Jewish life in Europe today underscoring the need for security, inclusion, and reconnection between Jewish communities and civil society.

For more information, please contact Paul Gompes, Vice Chair EU Relations & Projects  
[paul.gompes@eupj.eu](mailto:paul.gompes@eupj.eu)



# INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES

A major highlight of the past year was the webinar “Interfaith Engagement for Climate Action”, held on 17 December 2024, featuring Rabbi Dr. Jacqueline Tabick. A pioneering voice in interfaith dialogue and social justice, Rabbi Tabick shared reflections on her participation in the Global Summit of Religious Leaders (on the margins of COP29), her work with KAICIID, and her attendance at the UNAOC Conference in Portugal.

Her candid insights underscored both the potential and limitations of interfaith dialogue in addressing the climate crisis. The webinar offered a rare glimpse behind official declarations, revealing the complexities of high-level interfaith engagement. Nonetheless, it reaffirmed the importance of Jewish progressive representation in global interreligious forums and highlighted the moral responsibility of religious communities in climate action.

Another significant engagement was my participation in a side event of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) on 28 January 2025 in Strasbourg. Titled “*Making European Societies More Resilient Against Hate Speech, Polarisation, and Religious Extremism*,” the event was hosted by Frank Schwabe (Germany) and Gusty Graas (Luxembourg). Its aim was to lay the groundwork for a Permanent Platform for Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue, building on the PACE REC-2080 proposal.

Since then, I have established ongoing contact with the Co-Chairs of the Committee for Interreligious and Interconvictional Dialogue (Conference of INGOs), with the EUPJ now informally engaged in this important initiative. This connection enables us to monitor and support pan-European efforts to promote mutual understanding across religious and philosophical lines.

In my capacity as advisor to the board of the Lutheran European Commission on Church and Jewish People, I contributed to preparations for its upcoming annual meeting (13–16 June in Genoa) under the theme: “*As divisions grow, we must work again on what holds us together – Dispute over Israel after October 7th.*” I will attend and present at this event.

Looking ahead, I will continue to nurture relationships with interfaith partners and represent our movement in relevant European platforms. I am also pleased to note that our chair, Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, has been appointed to the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations (IJCIC). This opens further avenues for EUPJ's voice to be heard in global interfaith settings.

For more information, please contact Rabbi Dr Alexander Grodensky, Vice Chair Interfaith.  
[alexander.grodensky@eupj.org](mailto:alexander.grodensky@eupj.org)

# EUROPEAN BEIT DIN

This is Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick's last report on the work of the European Beit Din. She said that it has been a great joy and honour to help members of our communities in Europe through conversion, and also, to a lesser extent, through adoptions and sadly, divorce. This last year we have held several courts in London where, among others, we saw two candidates from Finland, marking a positive beginning of what I hope will be a strong relationship with our new community in the North. We also held a court for twenty candidates in Milan. That was a really special court. One candidate drove all the way from Barcelona to attend with his seven-year-old son, presenting him with a pair of candlesticks so that he could light shabbat candles wherever he was, including those shabbatot he spends with his non-Jewish mother. The last case involved a whole family, parents and five children who had found their way into the Jewish world. The younger children all brought with them books or objects that has special meaning for them on their journey into Judaism, helping them interact with the rabbis on the court. It was a wonderful case to end my role as convenor of that court, full of love and hope for a Jewish future in Europe.

I 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.

I also wish my successor, Rabbi Ruven bar Ephraim. much joy. I have worked with him over the years and am absolutely confident that I have left the court in safe, learned and sympathetic hands.

Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick

For more information, please contact Rabbi Ruven bar Ephraim, European Beit Din Convenor.  
[ruven.bar-ephraim@eupj.org](mailto:ruven.bar-ephraim@eupj.org)



# EUROPEAN RABBINIC ASSEMBLY (ERA)



איגוד רבני אירופה

EUPJ Rabbinic Assembly

Rabbi Sylvia Rothschild completed her term in office as ERA Chair in December 2024. We would like to thank her for her important work in supporting colleagues and bringing them together, as well as providing a rabbinic voice to the EUPJ.

The highlight of the year was the ERA Kallah which took place in Geneva in September 2024, hosted by the GIL. The gathering met with political and religious figures, including the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Hillel Neuer from UN Watch and Leon Saltiel from the World Jewish Congress. It was the first in-person ERA gathering since the pandemic, and underlined the need for colleagues to gather regularly to meet, talk and study together. Subsequently we decided to create an annual Kallah, and the next one will take place in June 2025 in Brussels.

ERA has continued its well-attended education sessions, which are held online on a monthly basis. In 2024, highlights included Rabbi Dr Dalia Marx, who led a series on the months of the year, based around her book on the Jewish Calendar.

ERA has also participated in wider rabbinic bodies, including the WUPJ Clergy Forum, and took part in the new appointment of the Convenor of the European Beit Din.

The **ERA Board 2024** consisted of the following rabbis:

Sylvia **Rothschild** (UK/Italy, Chair until December 2024, subsequently Secretary)

Nathan **Alfred** (Switzerland, Chair from December 2024)

Marc **Neiger** (Belgium, Treasurer)

Pauline **Bebe** (France)

Etienne **Kerber** (France)

Daniela **Touati** (France)

Ulrike **Offenberg** (Germany)

Menno **Ten Brink** (Netherlands)

Ruven **bar Ephraim** (Switzerland)

Fabian **Sborowsky** (UK)

Jackie **Tabick** (UK, ex-officio EBD)

For more information, please refer to <http://www.eupj-ra.eu/>

Contact: [contact@eupj-ra.eu](mailto:contact@eupj-ra.eu)



# REGIONAL REPORTS

## **Austria: Or Chadasch Liberal Jewish Community**

Rabbi Edward van Voolen supported us in the first half of the year when we were without a permanent rabbi, helping us maintain morale in a difficult period internationally and aiding the Board in the search for a new rabbi. In September 2024, rabbi Tobias Divack Moss and Rebbetzin Lea Kalish crossed the Atlantic to join us from Minneapolis, USA.

At the end of November, we were privileged to host the EUPJ Shabbaton. With delegates from nine countries, we discussed the goals and future of Liberal Judaism. Other Liberal communities' experience of gaining recognition, spurred the creation of Arzenu Austria, which will for the first time contest elections to the WZC.



Rabbi Tobias introduced a monthly zoom schiur and a weekly "Introduction to Judaism" open to all; while externally, his presence has raised our profile among Austria's wider Jewish community. New too is a monthly discussion group, with topics like: "Our experience of anti-semitism", "the future of Liberal Judaism in Austria", "Our relations with Israel".

Or Chadasch's branch of Tamar organizes activities for young adults; our monthly children's Kabbalat services continue, and we are growing! There were three Bar and one Bat Mitzvah last year, and 6 new adult members completed their Giur. Sadly, there have been two funerals, members laid to rest at our section of Vienna's Central Cemetery.

Our cultural activities have included concerts, notably modern classical music from Trio Triora, and our monthly "story hour" on zoom, while "Rabbi T" (on guitar) and Lea Kalish, a leading Yiddish singer and actress, performed at the newly refurbished former synagogue of St Pölten, joined by families of former St Pölten Jewish residents from as far away as the USA and Australia.

We visited historic Klosterneuburg and its Jewish cemetery on its 150th anniversary.

Or Chadash, Arzenu Austria and Tamar were all represented at the 80th anniversary ceremony of the liberation of Mauthausen concentration camp, on 11 May 2025.

Community outreach has continued through regular meetings with Catholic and Muslim groups, as well as school visits to the synagogue under The Neighbours Project”, now renamed “Gesher” - “Bridge”.

We participated in the Central European Beth Din with rabbi Anita Kantor of Budapest, rabbi Mischa Kapustin of Bratislava, rabbi David Maxa of Prague, rabbi Stas Wojciechowicz of Warsaw and rabbi Edward van Voolen; rabbi Tobias & rebbetzin Lea led the Kabbalat Shabbat service at Ljubljana Synagogue, with rabbi Alexander Grodensky – our contributions to European Cooperation!

For more information, please contact the Jewish Liberal Congregation – Or Chadasch: [info@orchadasch.at](mailto:info@orchadasch.at)

### **Belgium: Beth Hillel and IJC, Belgium**

#### **Joint Activities of Beth Hillel and IJC**

This year saw a growth in joint activities between Beth Hillel and IJC. Communal dinners, staff safety training, shared services and holidays are now organised with respect for each congregation's language and minhagim.

In the past year, members of Beth Hillel and IJC led by Rabbi Brian Doyle-Du Breuil and Rabbi Marc Neiger, held study and reflection workshops in French and English for Shavuot.

#### **Communaute Israelite Liberale de Belgique (Beth Hillel)**



The new logo reflects the Beth Hillel's 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and 20 years of their newly built Brussels synagogue. The community is growing steadily.

The website was renewed. A new podcast series « Mosaïques » offers a journey to discover liberal Jewish identities in the form of a “treasure hunt.”

As is custom now, Beth Hillel hosted the 29-hour reciting of the names of the Jews deported and murdered from Belgium, broadcasted on Radio Judaica. The Yom Hashoa ceremony was also held at Beth Hillel in the presence of dignitaries from government and embassies.

Contacts with other progressive French-speaking congregations are growing with celebratory activities held in Luxemburg and Paris during “Les Rencontres du Judaïsme Libéral Francophone 2024”.

Also, this year Beth Hillel is proud (in collaboration with CCLJ) to host the renowned Rabbi Delphine Horvilleur for four annual moments of study and reflection, organised by Tenoua, France.

For more information, please contact the Beth Hillel Community: [secretariat@beth-hillel.org](mailto:secretariat@beth-hillel.org)

### **International Jewish Centre (IJC)**

Peter Goldfein took over the presidency from Anu Ristola and new members were added to the board. The community is growing steadily.

A new two-year introductory course called Living Judaism was launched in January. It is based on the successful giur/conversion program and is open now for a broader public. In a new and modular format, participants register for specific topics or for the entire course.

IJC started organising visits to the mikveh in Tilburg for its members, in addition to the conversion mikveh (since there is no liberal mikveh available in Belgium). IJC and Tilburg work together on this, Rabbi Brian also officiating there.

For the second time in the past two years members will have the opportunity for a short retreat (1 night) in June, involving inspiring activities.

Rabbi Brian represented the European Union of Progressive Judaism together with Paul Gompes (Vice Chair EU Relations and Projects) at the second Civil Society Forum on Combating Antisemitism and Fostering Jewish life in Brussels. Purpose of the forum: bringing together Jewish organisations with a European outreach with representatives of civil society organisations on antisemitism and fostering Jewish life.

For more information, please contact the IJC: [info@ijc.be](mailto:info@ijc.be)

### **France: La Fédération du Judaïsme Libéral) (FJL)**



The Federation received a new member as Kehilat Bordeaux has been created in February 2024, with a cultural association Sheva. It has today 80 members and regular activities. Kehilat Bordeaux was for example represented at the Limoud held in Bordeaux. Ruth Levy who is currently a student rabbi at the École rabbinique de Paris has been regularly coming to Kehilat Bordeaux and will be the name rabbi after her Semikha in September. The dynamism of this brand new community is mainly due to the commitment and work its president and co-president Hannah and Lisa Wyler have put into it. It's a very positive signal in those difficult times for Judaism and for Progressive Judaism.

All presidents of the communities met in Paris in June 2024 and discussed communities' issues and had a focus on Talmud Torah and youth. A working group has been recently put up together to follow up on the propositions. Next meeting will be hosted by GIL in Geneva in November.

Another positive sign has been given by the gathering of all Progressive communities in European French speaking countries that was held in Paris last October at Kehilat Gesher synagogue. The event was organized by Kehilat Gesher and was attended by all communities of the FJL including members, rabbis and presidents from Brussels, Geneva and Luxembourg (president only for the latter) and a little number of JEM members. Workshops and plenary

sessions about religious as well as administrative issues for communities, a round table about Progressive Zionism and its link to Israel with high-level key-note speakers as well as religious services and a book fair gave a unique opportunity for discussions and exchanges of good practices. Turnout was amazing. Next meeting will be hosted by GIL in 2026.

Alongside of those events, by the end of July 2025 the president of the FJL went to a number of communities of the Federation, attending the 75th birthday of the Lux community alongside with the president of Beith Hillel, visiting Bordeaux, Lyon, of course both Parisian community, Brussels and Toulouse. Members of the various communities of the FJL will also meet for a shabbat in Maha Netzer, the FJL great summer camp.

For more information, please contact: [contact@fjlf.org](mailto:contact@fjlf.org)

### **France: Judaïsme en mouvement (JEM)**



Hundreds of JEM members mobilised to elect their new Board of Directors. With this gesture, it gave new impetus to Judaism on the Move.

The new Board of Directors will collectively lead this new phase of our common home. Jean-François Bensahel, President of JEM warmly thanked the former directors, for their commitment and dedication. Some are entering a "Collège des Sages" and will be able to share their advice and insights with us. Furthermore, since JEM is a community of communities, the Board brought together the heads of the local committees of Parisian synagogues and the presidents of regional communities within a single entity, the "Committee of Presidents," to share the best ideas and coordinate actions at the national level.

The President also thanked his friend and co-founder of JEM, Gad Weil, who is not leaving JEM entirely, as our new Board of Directors had elected him Honorary President of our movement.

Jean-François Bensahel said that he counted on all for their indulgence for this transition from co-presidency to a single presidency, which he wanted to put at the service of all and our Jewish life. He committed to leading this presidency with determination, kindness, and attentiveness to cultivate together, with all our 2,100 member families, our three Parisian synagogues, and the hundreds of families who are members of our partner communities in the regions, the spirit of openness that characterises and unites us.

Supported by a solid Executive Committee and a united Board of Directors, we will all be, as the midrash says, "servants of our great and beautiful community."

Jean-François Bensahel,  
President

For more information, please contact JEM: [contact@judaismeenmouvement.org](mailto:contact@judaismeenmouvement.org)



## Germany: Union of Progressive Judaism in Germany (UpJ)

**UNION PROGRESSIVER JUDEN**  
in Deutschland · Körperschaft des öffentlichen Rechts



The year 2024 was marked by many activities and events for the UpJ and its 19 member communities and three affiliated organizations.

The period from January 1 to 31 December 2024, and beyond was characterized by our discussions with the federal government and the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

Numerous telephone calls, Zoom conferences and personal contacts have taken place and continue to take place between the UpJ and the religious spokespersons of the Bundestag and individual politicians at state and federal level. There is also close and trusting cooperation with the lawyers we have commissioned.

In addition to a lawsuit before the Berlin Administrative Court, a constitutional complaint was filed before the Federal Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe against the Federal Ministry of the Interior in both cases.

The reason for this is the fact that, in our opinion, the Federal Government is violating its neutrality between state and religion and is only unilaterally providing the Central Council of Jews in Germany with a state contract amounting to €22 million. Since 2003, the Central Council of Jews in Germany has received funding from a state treaty that does not regulate the distribution of funds to the individual denominations. The Central Council can therefore distribute the funds as it sees fit, putting the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany at a massive disadvantage.

Immigration from the borders of the former Soviet Union, particularly from Russia and Ukraine, continues under the regulated procedure. In addition, the processing of applications for refugees of Jewish descent from Ukraine is continuing. To date, around 300 applications have been submitted via the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany.

We would like to emphasize three highlights:

The UpJ biennial conference in Amsterdam with more than 160 participants and powerful workshops and services.

The UpJ Netzer youth department is constantly expanding its work and in 2024 we were able to offer an international summer camp for the first time with participants from Israel, Italy, Spain, Sweden and Canada.

Doron Almog, President of the Jewish Agency for Israel, visited the machane together with Shelley Kedar, Michael Yedidovitzky and others and spent interesting hours with the chanichot, chanichim, madrichot and madrichim. Another highlight was the inauguration of the Mishkan Shalom synagogue of our member congregation in Kiel, which was celebrated with many guests from politics, society, friends and community members.

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



## Germany: Abraham Geiger Kolleg

ABRAHAM  
GEIGER  
COLLEGE

בית המדרש  
אברהם גייגר

AGK was able to continue its very successful work with the help of interim financing from its sponsor, the Jewish Community of Berlin.

We are grateful for the support of EUPJ and also the Women of Reform Judaism, which benefits our students directly by scholarships or training grants.

In 25 years, the College has trained 55 alumni, more than half of whom work for the Jewish community in Germany. Other alumni are active in Europe in Luxembourg, the Czech Republic, France, the United Kingdom and Sweden.

AGK currently has 13 students, four more students have been admitted in May 2025. Our 2024 Highlights:

In May two AGK students accompanied by a rabbi took part in Limmud, gave Schiurim and celebrated Shabbat

In June Dr. Jan Mühlstein, founder of the Abraham Geiger College in 1999, spoke about the history of liberal Judaism in Germany since the 1990s. The highly stimulating event, with its fact-filled lecture, gave much deeper understanding of the subject.

A large public ordination ceremony took place on 5 September in the Rykestraße Synagogue in Berlin, where two rabbis and six cantors were inducted into office in a moving, solemn and well-attended ceremony and we were glad to have Miriam Kramer, EUPJ President and Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, EUPJ Chair, with us for a strong and supporting Ordination address.



2024 celebration of the Abraham Geiger College in the Rykestraße Synagogue in Berlin  
– 2 rabbis and 6 cantors ordained ©: AGK/Stephan Pramme

In September one student started the Year-in-Israel experience.

In November a memorial service was held for the founding president of the Abraham Geiger College, Rabbi Prof. Walter Jacob z'l, who passed away on 20 October. The service was open to the public and the live stream, was very well received, with AGK Alumni speaking.

On 13 November we invited guests to the Yahrzeit of our namesake, Rabbi Abraham Geiger. Rabbi Nachama gave a shiur on the life and work of Abraham Geiger.

Also, in November the youth group of the UpJ Netzer Madrichim visited Potsdam and was welcomed by Rabbi Nachama and rabbinical student, Alla Mitelman.

In December Dr. Zohar Weiman-Kelman and Max Strassfeld gave a lecture: an evening of text study: Queering Categories: from Jewish Antiquity to Yiddish Modernism. We were delighted to welcome international visitors from liberal communities.

In December 2024, the conference of the European Cantors Association took place in Budapest, with successful AGK participation.

For more information, please contact the Abraham Geiger Kolleg: [office@geiger-edu.de](mailto:office@geiger-edu.de)

### **Luxembourg: Liberal Jewish Community of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg**

The past 12 months have shown once again that the Liberal Jewish Community in Luxembourg is more dynamic than ever. The highlight was without a doubt the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our building, which was also the occasion to celebrate 225 years of Jewish presence in Luxembourg and commemorate the Reichspogromnacht on 9 November 2024. Some 200 invitees found their way to our shul, followed by a reception at the National Human Rights and Resistance Museum. Many had come from abroad with the chairs of the Fédération du Judaïsme Libéral Francophone, a Vice-chair of the EUPJ and President of Beth Hillel (Brussels) in attendance. The entire town council of Esch-sur-Alzette (where our synagogue is based) and minister Georges Mischo on behalf of the Luxembourg government participated, too. The event was also very well reviewed in the press with numerous newspaper articles and a [report](#) on RTL Television Luxembourg.



70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. © Mo Geffen – One Thousand Eyes

Our National Holiday Service (June 2024) remains very popular as well, particularly among non-Jews for whom it is a rare occasion to get a glimpse into Jewish life in Luxembourg.

The second event to highlight was the second edition of Limmud Luxembourg in February 2025, this time around in Mondorf-les-Bains, with some 80 people in attendance. While our community is not the main organiser, the event proved once again the necessity of more learning experiences to bring the Jewish community together in Luxembourg and it was a huge success.

All of our holidays and various events saw an increase in attendance, and we have roughly 250-300 members/regular users of our services. Our community has met on numerous occasions, and the number of meals and various other activities has shown that we are a warm and welcoming place for Jews and their friends in and around Luxembourg. Even our Channukah dinner in the middle of the winter break (27 December) saw almost 50 people fill our shul. We now have two catering services within our own community, specialising in different foods. And we had some 40 people for Tu BiShevat, 60-80 for Purim and Pessach, not to mention Rosh Hashanah when the synagogue was full downstairs and upstairs! We are now well established in the religious, social and political landscape in the Grand-Duchy.

Our community remains at the heart of Luxembourgish society and we have had plenty of occasions to prove it, by participating in various conferences and interreligious activities such as the now annual Pride Service in Esch, different commemorations particularly in the context of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII (including the national IHRD event at the place de la synagogue in January 2024) and both local (Commission des cultes de la Ville d'Esch) and national (Panas – plan d'action national de lutte contre l'antisémitisme) platforms. We have also continued to pressure the government into giving us our share in terms of state recognition/funding and met with the PM in April.

The existence of two, distinct Jewish communities has now been officially acknowledged by the State. We hope that when the next state conventions with faith communities are negotiated or renegotiated, we will get our own agreement to cement our long-term future and development in Luxembourg and Europe. Our relations with the Orthodox community are essentially non-existent after years of tensions and a lack of engagement on the side of the Consistoire. However, events like Limmud Luxembourg show that Jews and their friends in Luxembourg only want one thing: a dignified and reliable Jewish partner to talk to.

Our Yom Haatzmaut service and dinner were a great success, a clear sign of the importance our members attach to the Jewish State and its struggles. Despite what some claim, we are a deeply Zionist and diverse community, and we do not shy away from our ties with Jerusalem. Our international activities have been less pronounced than in previous years (except for Limmud Luxembourg/Europe), but we also have continued to defend our trusted links with various partners in Europe, particularly the Fédération juive libérale francophone, which has been reinvigorated under a new leadership.

For more information, please contact: [info@jewish.lu](mailto:info@jewish.lu)

### **Netherlands: Nederlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom (NVPJ)**



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 organisations 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. The Verbond also hosts the annual Oneg Shabbat for all congregations. The Verbond maintains its own representatives within boards of all major Dutch Jewish organizations.



### **Highlights 2024**

In July 2024, Sven Parsser represented the Verbond at the EUPJ Strategy Days in London, contributing to discussions on the future direction of the European Union for Progressive Judaism. Given that two major EUPJ projects over the past three years have seen



significant involvement from the Dutch community, it was recognised that our input could offer valuable external perspectives on the EUPJ's operations and strategic approach.

In December 2024, the Liberal Jewish Congregation (LJC) Amsterdam had the honour of hosting the annual conference of the Union of Progressive Jews in Germany. This event underscored the longstanding bond between the Amsterdam community and its German counterparts—rooted in a shared history dating back to the 1930s, when Amsterdam Liberal Jews and German Jewish refugees established strong communal ties.



In the spirit of cross-border cooperation, Rabbi Dr. Brian Doyle du Breuil—Rabbi of the International Jewish Community in Brussels and EUPJ Rabbinical Envoy to the European Commission—joined the Dutch Beit Din and also became Rabbi of the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in Tilburg, Brabant. His involvement reflects the deepening collaboration between EUPJ communities across national borders and our shared commitment to rabbinical leadership in a European context.

Please contact the Verbond Nederland for more information: [info@verbond.eu](mailto:info@verbond.eu)

### Spain:

Two of the most meaningful events for the Iberian congregations this year were a very successful Iberia shabbaton, the first one after the COVID, and Yom Kippur at Bet RamBam, Sevilla. Both events included participants from different congregations, *"How good and how pleasant it is that brothers and sisters dwell together"* (Psalm 133)



Photo 1: Left to Right - Deborah Rios Rey and Ahuvah Gipson of Bet Januka, Rota brought their Torah scroll for the shabbaton



Photo 2: Left to Right - Franciso Bataller, Vice President, Shir Jadash is reading, Rabbi Dr Alona Lisitsa, and Adriana Souza, Ohel Jacob, Lisbon.

The Shabbaton was hosted by Shir Jadash, Valencia, and 40 participants of different ages from another three congregations, Bet Januka, Rota, Bet RamBam, Sevilla and Ohel Jacob, Lisbon, and Galician havurah, were present. Packed Shabbat and Sunday programs including Seder Tu biShvat and trees planting, but more than anything else precious time together to dream and to plan.

Yom Kippur at Bet RamBam, Sevilla was a spiritual gathering across communities welcoming Rabbi Alona Lisitsa who lead the congregations through the holiest day of the Jewish calendar.

Her presence helped shape a deeply meaningful and uplifting experience for all who joined. Participation of the members of Bet Januka, Rota, Galician havurah and the guests from around the world, who came together in Seville to observe the holiday, made prayer, reflections, and Torah learning truly international and communal Reform experience.

**Bet Januka, Rota** (Contact: [info@betjanuka.org](mailto:info@betjanuka.org))

This year bar/bat mitzvah course included 5 students. The celebration of Felix MacFarland's bar mitzvah was a meaning event for his family and the whole community. Bet Januka's candidate, Daniel, has presented himself before the European Beit Din, and joined the people of Israel.

**Bet RamBam, Sevilla** Contact: ([secretario@beitrambam.es](mailto:secretario@beitrambam.es))

The second Night of Hanukkah, with eight menorahs, and Hamantaschen making Purim activity for the kids and adults were the most meaningful and delightful activities this year that brought a full house of members and visitors. A hands-on, all-ages events filled with learning, laughter, and lots of tasty treats!

**Shir Jadash, Valencia** (Contact: [shirjadash.reformavalenciana@gmail.com](mailto:shirjadash.reformavalenciana@gmail.com))

There was a sturdy increase in membership during this year, to the point that Shir Jadash launched a search for a new space. In addition to Rosh haShanah services with Rabbi Lisitsa, and hosting the Iberia shabbaton, the preparations for receiving Torah scroll donation in July were in full swing.

## Switzerland:



### Platform of Liberal Jews of Switzerland (PLJS)

## Consequences of the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023

2024 was marked by the consequences of the Hamas terrorist attack on 7 October 2023 and the subsequent war in Gaza.

The sharp rise in anti-Semitism worldwide, including Switzerland, manifested itself not only in graffiti or slogans, but unfortunately also in physical attacks on Jewish people or institutions. Numerous joint appeals were made by politicians and religious communities, speaking out against incitement and violence and emphasizing peaceful coexistence as the basis of our democracy.

The PLJS was represented on a committee of the City of Zurich in which ideas for combating anti-Semitism and racism were discussed. This discussion will continue in 2025.

## 20 years of Migwan

PLJS active member Migwan celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024 with various events throughout the year. A number of PLJS representatives also took part in the main event at the end of August.

## Further education Auschwitz

An important joint project of the PLJS and the SIG (Swiss Federation of Jewish Communities) is the further education Auschwitz for teachers in German-speaking Switzerland, which takes place every two years.





The first part comprises a day trip to the Auschwitz memorial site, organized by the two umbrella associations. The second part is organized by the Lucerne University of Teacher Education to process the day of the trip. Workshops provide ideas on how to bring the topic of “Shoah” into the classroom. The positive feedback confirmed once again that this offer meets a need.

### Statements

At the beginning of March, the PLJS, together with the SIG, commented on the consultation on the Hamas ban. This ban was finally approved by parliament in December. Shortly after, the consultation on the ban on Nazi symbols was opened. Here, too, the PLJS and the SIG expressed their support. Other statements related in particular to the rise in anti-Semitism.

### “Learning in peace” - Project of the Zurich University of Teacher Education (PH Zurich)

The project, co-led by one of our board members, focuses on the right of all children to an inclusive, respectful and safe education. The PH Zurich aims to focus on people rather than conflict, and instead of arguing about positions on war and its effects in Switzerland, the common foundations for peaceful coexistence should be explored.

This project is broadly supported (Department of Education, religious communities, interfaith platforms, etc.), also by the PLJS.

For more information, please contact [office@liberaljews.ch](mailto:office@liberaljews.ch)

### United Kingdom: Leo Baeck College

The highlight of the year was the Ordination of five new rabbis. The service, held at the LJS, was co-lead by Rabbi Igor Zinkov and Cantor Tamara Wolfson. Rabbi Daisy Bogod was ordained by Rabbi Danny Rich, Rabbi Eleanor Davis by Rabbi Daniel Amnon Smith, Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang by Rabbi Josh Levy, Rabbi Martina Loreggian by Rabbi Mark Solomon and Rabbi Matt Turchin by Rabbi Alexandra Wright. The address on behalf of the College was delivered, at the students' request, by LBC Senior Librarian Cassy Sachar. Rabbi Bogod has followed Rabbi Rachel Benjamin to be the rabbi of Mosaic Liberal, Rabbi Davis has joined the clergy team at Finchley Reform Synagogue, Rabbi Feuchtwang the clergy team at Alyth, Rabbi Loreggian is dividing her time between Norwich Liberal and Cardiff Reform, and Rabbi Turchin has joined the clergy team at West London.



Left to Right Rabbi Martina Loreggian, Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh, Rabbi Professor Deborah Kahn-Harris, Rabbi Eleanor Davis, Rabbi Matt Turchin. In front, Rabbi Nicola Feuchtwang and Rabbi Daisy Bogod.

For more information, please contact: [info@lbc.ac.uk](mailto:info@lbc.ac.uk)

## United Kingdom: Liberal and Reform Judaism

In one of the biggest developments in British Judaism of the last 80 years, the Movement for Reform Judaism and Liberal Judaism will be merging to form the Movement for Progressive Judaism (MPJ). This follows the vote at two Extraordinary General Meetings held in parallel on May 18<sup>th</sup>, where over 95% of votes were in favour of the merger. In the MRJ, it is synagogues which are members entitled to vote, whereas in LJ, synagogues and individual rabbis and cantors may vote.

Both organisations are registered with the UK Charity Commission, which will now have to agree to them being dissolved and a new charitable organisation being set up. It is anticipated that this will take the best part of a year, so the new MPJ will launch around the turn of the Gregorian year.

There have been at least two previous efforts to merge the two organisations, which have been characterised as “top down” projects which failed through the clash of personalities and failure to enlist the support of members, whereas this time the two Movement leaders, Rabbi Charley Baginsky (LJ) and Rabbi Josh Levy (MRJ), have worked closely together over two years to inform and involve members in the discussions. There are three progressive synagogues which will be independent of the new movement – West London, Westminster and Edgware and Hendon – although it is hoped they will get onboard in due course.

The MPJ will have four key missions: to strengthen, support and connect its communities; to promote, amplify and embolden Progressive values and forms of Jewish life; to inspire and nurture the next generations of Progressive Jews; and to foster inclusion, provide resources and pave the way for those seeking to join. It will initially have some 80 synagogue communities in membership, representing around one-third of the UK’s synagogue-affiliated Jews.



Left to Right: Rabbi Charley Baginsky, Paul Langsford, Dr Ed Kessler, Karen Newman and Rabbi Josh Levy

For more information, please go to <http://www.reformjudaism.org.uk/>

# NEW COMMUNITY PROFILE



L'Dor Dor Tbilisi

Dor L'Dor is a vibrant reform community established on 26th May 2023 and registered in August 2023 in Tbilisi, Georgia. We are proud to be the first reform community in the Caucasus region.

- A small, welcoming community with around 100 members, including families with children
- The first community in 26 centuries of Jewish history in Georgia where a woman read from the Torah scroll
- Georgian, English, Hebrew, and Russian are spoken in the community
- The community does not have a full-time Rabbi but successfully celebrates all major holidays and holds Shabbat services twice a month
- Dor L'Dor has a sibling congregation, Temple Ner Tamid, from New Jersey, USA
- The community has a memorandum with Peace Synagogue, granting us the right to use its space for worship
- The synagogue can accommodate around 60 people
- The community is oriented to become self-sustainable and is already working with organizations such as the Anne Frank Fund, Schusterman Foundation, EPNA, Tikun Hayam, and others
- Community participates and practices in the first interfaith coexistence project "The Peace Project" in Georgia

For more information, please contact Mikheil Grishashvili:  
[grishashvilimikheil@dorldorgeorgia.org](mailto:grishashvilimikheil@dorldorgeorgia.org)



Left: First Bar/Bat Mitzvah in the community and Peace Synagogue  
Right: Peach Seder with Rabbi Benyamin Minich





# NEW COMMUNITY PROFILE



Shir Hatzafon, Denmark's only Progressive Jewish congregation, was founded in 2000, and is an open and inclusive community where Judaism meets contemporary values. We were officially registered as one of Denmark's three state-recognised Jewish congregations in 2006 by the Danish Ministry of Church Affairs.

Our goal is to create a safe and spiritual home for those who want to immerse themselves in Judaism whilst living a modern life – in May 2025 we had just over 170 members.

At Shir Hatzafon, we combine the rich traditions of Judaism with an understanding that the world is constantly evolving. We believe that religions should be flexible and welcoming to those seeking spiritual depth, social justice, and community. This is reflected in our services, events and the life we live together as a congregation.



We have our own siddur, which includes Hebrew, English, Danish, and transliteration!

There are regular shabbat morning services, and we celebrate all major Jewish holidays as well as others such as Tu biShvat and Purim (which we celebrate in collaboration with the other Jewish communities in Denmark).

We have a bnei mitzvah programme for teens, an 18-35 TAMAR social group, and hold monthly community chavurah dinners.



We have been lucky over the years to have been served by many clergy from around the world, including Rabbi Dr Charles Middleburgh, Rabbi Tirzah Ben-David, Rabbi Rebecca Lillian, Rabbi Sandra Kviat, and currently by Cantor Dorothy Goldberg and Rabbinic Student Rafe Thurstance (both seen here at the *Yamim Noraim* 2024).



Shabbat Morning Service at Shir Hatzafon



Shir Hatzafon  
2025 Annual General  
Meeting

For more information, please contact: [shir@shirhatzafon.dk](mailto:shir@shirhatzafon.dk)

# NEW COMMUNITY PROFILE



Our community's story began in December 2020, with heartfelt letter to the World Union for Progressive Judaism (WUPJ), asking for help with Bnei Mitzva in Vilnius.

Rabbi Nathan Alfred, who serving as a community builder with WUPJ, was the first to respond. He kindly invited me to join a course for Baalei Tefillah run by the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ), which I completed in 2021. This course prepared me to lead our emerging community in prayer.

Meanwhile, we began organising online Kabbalat Shabbat services via Zoom for Jews in Lithuania, connecting us with communities in London, Johannesburg, Minsk, and beyond. Inspired by these connections, we started meeting in person at the Lithuanian Jewish Community Center. Our first gathering was in December 2021. Since then, we have held monthly (sometimes more frequent) Kabbalat Shabbat services, welcoming 20 to 40 participants. On two occasions, we were joined by guests sent by Rabbi Igor Zinkov from London.

Initially, we did not have access to a Torah scroll, which made organizing Saturday morning services a challenge. In March 2022, however, we succeeded in borrowing an old scroll from the Orthodox synagogue to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Judith Kaplan's Bat Mitzvah—the first girl to publicly read from the Torah.

Throughout 2022, Rabbi Nathan continued to visit and support us. Together, we made history by organizing, for the first time in Vilnius and Lithuania, a Torah reading by women. It was a profound and meaningful moment for our community.

In May 2022, we held a special Bar Mitzvah celebration as part of the Litvak Congress, in collaboration with the Jewish ORT school in Vilnius.

Throughout 2023, we organized several Bar and Bat Mitzvahs with students from the local Jewish school. We also celebrated **Mimouna**, reflecting our connection with other Jewish cultural traditions. Before Rosh Hashanah, we officially registered our nonprofit organization under the name **Bnei Maskilim on August 2, 2023**.



Since **Bnei Maskilim** focuses on **spiritual Jewish identity**, one of its core projects has become the **Bnei Mitzva** program, in partnership with the **ORT** school in Vilnius and led by **Rabbi Nathan Alfred**. This year, 10 young adults read from the Torah and began their personal spiritual journeys in the Jewish world.

Today, our community holds legal status and continues to grow. We celebrate Jewish holidays and Jewish life cycle.

For more information please contact Beit Maskilim Community, Vilnius, Lithuania  
[info@bneimaskilim.lt](mailto:info@bneimaskilim.lt)



# EUPJ COMMUNITIES

## **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

## **Finland**

Or Hatzafon

## **France**

### **Assemblée du Judaïsme Libéral (AJL)**

Beth Yaacov, formerly AJTM

Communauté Juive Libérale Dauphine à Grenoble

Kehilat Gesher - Communauté Juive Franco-Anglophone de Paris

Kehilat Kedem - Synagogue Libérale de Montpellier

JEM Beaugrenelle

JEM Copernic

JEM Nice

Keren Or, la Synagogue Libérale de Lyon

La Communauté Juive Libérale - Île de France

L'Ecole Rabbinic de Paris

Maison du Judaïsme Libérale à Toulouse

Or Haolam (formerly CJLT)

Union Juive Libérale de Marseille

Union Juive Libérale de Strasbourg

## **Georgia**

Dor L'Dor Tbilisi

## **Germany**

### **Union Progressiver Juden in Deutschland (UpJ) K.d.ö.R.**

Isaelitischer Tempelverband – Liberale Juedische Gemeinde zu Hamburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Ahrensburg Stormarn

Jüdische Gemeinde – Bad Segeberg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Celle

Jüdische Gemeinde – Elmshorn

Jüdische Gemeinde HaKochaw für den Kreis - Unna

Jüdische Gemeinde – Kiel

Jüdische Gemeinde zu Magdeburg

Jüdische Gemeinde – Pinneberg

Jüdische Kultusgemeinde Bielefeld Beit Tikwa

Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Köln Gescher LaMassoret

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Lübeck

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Mischkan ha-tfila – Bamberg

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde München Beth Shalom

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Oldenburg

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Ruhrgebiet Perusch

Liberale Jüdische Gemeinde Wolfsburg-Braunschweig

Menorah – Jüdische Gemeinde zu Bremerhaven

Reformsynagoge der Jüdischen Gemeinde Hamburg

Synagogengemeinde Sukkat Schalom Berlin

## **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

## **Lithuania**

Bnei Maskilim

## **Luxembourg**

Liberal Jewish Community of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

## **Netherlands**

### **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**

Hehaver Ohel Jacob

## **Republic of Ireland**

Dublin Jewish Progressive Congregation

## **Slovenia**

Liberal Jewish Community of Slovenia

## **Spain**

Comunidad Judía Bet Januká de Andalucía

Comunidad Judía Bnei Israel de Galicia

Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom

Jewish Congregation Beit Rambam of Andalusia

Reform Jewish Community of Madrid

Shir Jadash Comunidad Judia Reformista Valenciana

## **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

Eastbourne Progressive Jewish Congregation

East London & Essex Liberal Synagogue

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 Liberal Synagogue  
Oxford Jewish Liberal Jewish Services  
Peterborough Liberal Jewish Community  
Reading Liberal Jewish Community  
South Bucks Liberal Jewish Community  
Southgate Progressive Synagogue  
South London Liberal Synagogue  
Stevenage Liberal Synagogue  
Suffolk Liberal Jewish Community  
The Ark Synagogue  
The Liberal Jewish Synagogue (St John's Wood)  
The Liberal Synagogue Elstree  
Three Counties Liberal Jewish Community  
Wessex Liberal Jewish Community (Bournemouth)  
York Liberal Jewish Community  
**United Kingdom - Movement for Reform Judaism**  
Alyth Synagogue, London  
Beth Shalom Reform Synagogue, Cambridge  
Blackpool Reform Jewish Congregation  
Bournemouth Reform Synagogue  
Bradford Tree of Life Synagogue  
Brighton & Hove Reform Synagogue  
Bromley Reform Synagogue  
Cardiff Reform Synagogue  
Coventry Jewish Reform Community  
Darlington Hebrew Congregation  
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, Manchester  
Milton Keynes & District Reform Synagogue  
Mosaic Reform Synagogue, London  
Ne've Shalom, Hull  
Newcastle Reform Synagogue  
North West Surrey Synagogue  
Oaks Lane Reform Synagogue  
Radlett Reform Synagogue  
Reform Judaism in Welwyn & South Herts



Seven Hills, Sheffield Reform  
Sha'arei Shalom, Manchester  
Sha'arei Tsedek - North London Reform Synagogue  
Sinai Synagogue, Leeds  
South Hampshire Reform Jewish Community  
Southend & District Reform Synagogue  
Southport & District Reform Synagogue  
Sukkat Shalom Reform Synagogue, London  
Swindon Jewish Community  
Thanet & District Reform Synagogue  
The Wimbledon Synagogue  
Tivah Chadasha, Brentwood Reform Synagogue  
Totnes Reform Jewish Community

**[For EUPJ community contact details, please click here](#)**

**[For WUPJ worldwide community contact details, 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 Sunday 20 July 2025 at 5pm BST/6pm CEST. This meeting will be held electronically via Zoom.

## AGENDA

1. **Welcome, Opening Prayer and Apologies** for absence.
2. **The Minutes of the European Assembly** held via Zoom on 28 July 2024.
3. Presentation and consideration of the **Chair's Report for 2024 by the Chair Rabbi Lea Mühlstein** on the past year's activity of the Management Committee and Executive Board. (Please make sure you read the Chair's Report in advance of the meeting, which is included with all the other reports in the 2024 Annual Report, available on the EUPJ website after 9 July 2025.)
4. Consideration and approval of the **Examined Annual Accounts of the EUPJ for 2024** (the Accounts). The Accounts will be available for inspection on the EUPJ website after 9 July 2025. The Treasurer's Report to be presented at the Meeting, together with a brief financial summary, is included in the 2024 Annual Report.
5. **Resolution to appoint the Examiner of the 2025 Accounts:** "Resolved that the appointment of the accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP to perform an examination of the 2025 annual accounts for the EUPJ, be approved."
6. **Commencement of Transition to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)** - verbal report by Jonathan Eaton.
7. **Resolution to ratify the admission of Shir Hatzafon, Copenhagen** known as Shir Hatzafon as a full member of the EUPJ by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025: "Resolved that the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025 to appoint **Shir Hatzafon, Copenhagen** known as Shir Hatzafon as a full member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution."
8. **Resolution to ratify the admission of L'École Rabbiniqque de Paris**, known as L'École Rabbiniqque de Paris as a full member of the EUPJ by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025: "Resolved that the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025 to appoint **L'École Rabbiniqque de Paris**, known as L'École Rabbiniqque de Paris as a full

member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution.”

9. **Resolution to ratify the admission of L’Dor L’Dor Tbilisi** known as **L’Dor L’Dor** as an associate member of the EUPJ by the EUPJ Executive Board on 1 December 2024: “Resolved that the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 1 December 2024 to appoint **L’Dor L’Dor Tbilisi** known as **L’Dor L’Dor** as an associate member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution. This membership shall continue until 1 December 2027 when it will lapse unless a) The EUPJ Management Committee agrees that the associate membership should be extended or b) that the EUPJ Management Committee determines that the community has successfully met the criteria to become a full member of the EUPJ. In that case, full membership shall be ratified at the next Executive Board Meeting following 1 December 2027.”
10. **Resolution to ratify the admission of Liberalne Judovske Skupnosti Slovenije**, known as the **Liberal Jewish Community of Slovenia** as an associate member of the EUPJ by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025: “Resolved that the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025 to appoint **Liberalne Judovske Skupnosti Slovenije**, known as the **Liberal Jewish Community of Slovenia** as an associate member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution. This membership shall continue until 1st December 2028 when it will lapse unless: a) The EUPJ Management Committee agrees that the associate membership should be extended or b) that the EUPJ Management Committee determines that the community has successfully met the criteria to become a full member of the EUPJ. In that case, full membership shall be ratified at the next Executive Board Meeting following 1 December 2028.”
11. **Resolution to ratify the admission of Bnei Maskilim Vilnius**, known as **Bnei Maskilim Vilnius** as an associate member of the EUPJ by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025: “Resolved that the decision by the EUPJ Executive Board on 15 June 2025 to appoint **Bnei Maskilim Vilnius**, known as Bnei Maskilim Vilnius as an associate member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, be and is hereby ratified in terms of the proviso to Section 4.2 of the Constitution. This membership shall continue until 1st December 2028 when it will lapse unless: a) The EUPJ Management Committee agrees that the associate membership should be extended or b) that the EUPJ Management Committee determines that the community has successfully met the criteria to become a full member of the EUPJ. In that case, full membership shall be ratified at the next Executive Board Meeting following 1 December 2028.”
12. **Resolution to ratify the Appointments to the EUPJ Executive Board** – The list of names of Executive Board members to be ratified will be made available after 9 July on the EUPJ website.
13. **Report from the nominations committee presented by Paul Gompes, Chair Nominations Committee** (a list of individuals for ratification will be made available after 9 July on the EUPJ website).
14. **Resolution 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. Vice Chair Communications
  - b. Vice Chair Emerging Leadership and Community Development
15. **Discussion of Annual Report** – brief discussion on any other item raised in the 2024 Annual Report (available on the EUPJ website after 9 July 2025).

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

Jonathan Eaton – Vice-Chair Governance

Dated: 18 June 2025

**Notes:**

1. **Online Meeting Only** - This meeting will not be in person, but will be held electronically via Zoom, as it was in 2024.
2. **Voting** – Constituent Delegates will be able to vote on resolutions by using the “Zoom Polling system”, as we did in 2024 and which will be explained during the meeting. Members of the Management Committee and the Executive Board who are not constituent delegates are not entitled to vote.
3. **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 the proxy form available online is completed no later than 20 July 2025.
4. **Guests** - 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.



# MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 28 JULY 2024

## EUROPEAN UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the European Assembly of the European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ)** held electronically via Zoom on **Sunday 28 July 2024** at 17.00 BST.

**Present:** EUPJ Chair, Rabbi Lea Mühlstein, and the other Honorary Officers and representatives of various constituent members and associate members of EUPJ, as well as invitees as follows: Rabbi Nathan Alfred (EUPJ European Rabbinic Association) Switzerland, Jai Anguita (Comunitat Jueva Bet Shalom, Barcelona) Spain, Rabbi Charley Baginsky (Liberal Judaism), United Kingdom, Leslie Bergman (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Jonathan Eaton (EUPJ) The Netherlands, Pierre Elkaim (Kehilat Gesher/EUPJ) France, Andre Falcao (Hehaver - Synagogue Ohel Jacob, Lisbon) Portugal, Fabio Benjamin Fantini (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo - FIEP) Italy, Dr František Fendrych (Jewish Liberal Union in the Czech Republic (ZLU), Czech Republic, Mikael Garellick (International Jewish Centre) Belgium, Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein (Liberal Judaism), United Kingdom, Paul Gompes (Netherlands Verbond voor Progressief Jodendom (NVPJ) The Netherlands, Deborah Grabiner (EUPJ) London, Rabbi Etienne Kerber (CJL Paris/ FJL Fédération du Judaïsme Libéral) France, Miriam Kramer (EUPJ) United Kingdom, Ian Lancaster (Reform Judaism/EUPJ) United Kingdom, Veronika Lederman (IJC and Beth Hillel) Belgium, Rabbi David Maxa (Ec chajim - The Progressive Jewish Community of Prague / Central European Beit Din) Czech Republic, Irith Michelsohn (Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland) Germany, Jan Miklas-Frankowski (Beit Polska) Poland, Carlo Riva (Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo - FIEP) Italy, Brigitta Rotach (Jüdische Liberale Gemeinde Or Chadasch Zürich (JLG)/Platform of Liberal Jews (PLJS), Switzerland, Ekaterina Solodkaia (Union progressiver Juden in Deutschland) Germany, Andrew Solomon (Or Chadasch, Vienna) Austria, Piotr Stasiak (Beit Polska, Union of Progressive Jewish Communities) Poland, Judit Szabados (Sim Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation) Hungary, James Traeger (Leo Baeck College) United Kingdom, Golan Tsadaf (International Jewish Center) Belgium, Muriel Wahl (Or 'Ammim/(Federazione Italiana Ebraismo Progressivo - FIEP) Italy, Ari Warshawsky (Liberal Jewish Community of Luxembourg), Luxembourg.

### 1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair advised that a quorum was present and welcomed everyone to the 2024 European Assembly Meeting. She emphasised the need for the Annual meeting as per UK law. The meeting noted that apologies had been received from Rabbi Menno ten Brink, Rabbi Alexander Grodensky, Rabbi Josh Levy and David Weis,

The Chair then introduced Rabbi Charley Baginsky (CB), Co-Chief Executive Officer of Progressive Judaism in the UK and CEO of Liberal Judaism, who delivered the opening prayer. CB discussed the challenges of living in times of uncertainty. CB also expressed her belief in the potential for the organisation to make a difference and build a better world and underscored the leadership's potential to make a significant impact.

### 2. Approval of Minutes of the 2023 meeting of the European Assembly held via Zoom

The Chair advised that the minutes of the European Assembly held online via Zoom on 31 August 2023 were included in the EUPJ Annual Report for 2023 ("the 2023 Report")

available on the EUPJ website before the meeting. In response to her request, the Chair did not receive any comments or suggestions for changes to the Minutes, which were duly accepted with a majority as a correct record of the meeting and were then signed by the Chair.

### **3. Welcome by WUPJ (World Union of Progressive Judaism) President and Chair**

The absence of Rabbi Sergio Bergman was noted but the greeting from the World Union for Progressive Judaism was referenced in the Annual Report.

### **4. Chair's Report**

The Chair referred the meeting to the Chair's Report included in the 2023 Report on pages 5-7. The Chair's report was presented and accepted. Rabb Lea Mühlstein outlined the organisation's priorities for the coming year, emphasising the importance of congregational development, strengthening established congregations, and investing in the next generation. She stressed the need for enhancing governance procedures, improving internal and external communication, and building capacity, both in terms of volunteer and professional resources, to deliver activities and programs more effectively.

The Chair also raised one more resolution not included in the Notice to keep it discreet until the meeting. The resolution to appoint Rabbi Dr Jackie Tabick as an honorary life president of the European Union Progressive Judaism was proposed by the Chair, and seconded by Pierre Elkaim, which was approved by the majority.

The Chair concluded her report and announced an upcoming in-person Shabbaton and Executive Board meeting in Vienna from November 29th to December 1st, 2024. The meeting was reminded that Constituent Members were invited to attend but priority would be given to the Executive Board. The details and application had been shared separately.

The Chair invited Jonathan Eaton, Vice-Chair, Governance, to report on the progress of various governance initiatives, including the EUPJ Foundation, Networks Overcoming Antisemitism project, and the Kantor antisemitism survey. JE acknowledged Paul Gompes and Pierre Elkaim's significant contributions in resolving liabilities and recovering funds. Lastly, he announced the successful completion of the final project, the Pan-European antisemitism project, Neighbours, and confirmed the organisation's compliance with UK charity laws and personal information security.

### **5. Annual Accounts for 2023**

The Chair confirmed that the Finance Report was included with the Annual Report, starting on page 8 together with the 2023 Examined Annual Accounts, which had been made available in a separate document.

Pierre Elkaim (PE) presented the financial status of the EUPJ for the year 2023. He explained the split between restricted and unrestricted funds, with the latter showing a significant increase due to income received and expenses paid out. For unrestricted funds, the major income came from membership and grants, while expenses were primarily administration and activity-based costs. For restricted funds, the main income was the Roswell Fund, and the expenditures included support for a rabbinic student and the Ukraine appeal. EUPJ's main donation activities included supporting various funds such as the Rabbinical Training Fund, and the EUPJ Foundation.

The Chair further discussed the 2023 financial accounts, noting a net surplus due to new leadership and changes in rabbinical support funds. She also led discussions on improving support for rabbinic training across different seminaries.

As there were no questions, the Chair invited the meeting to approve the Accounts, which were approved by a majority. The chair thanked Pierre Elkaim for his work and looked forward to working with him this year.

## **6. Appointment of Examiner**

The Chair reminded the European Assembly Meeting that, as EUPJ is a UK registered charity, the UK Charity Commission requires its annual accounts to be examined by an independent qualified accountant who issues a report. The 2023 accounts have been examined by accounting firm Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP. The Independent Examiner's Report is on page 4 of the Certified Accounts. The report shows no criticism of the accounts and that they comply with the UK's Charity Commission rules. The EUPJ Management Committee and Executive Board appreciated the services provided by Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP and wished to appoint them to examine the 2024 Accounts.

The Chair invited the meeting to approve the resolution to ratify the appointment of Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP as Independent Examiners of the annual accounts for 2024, which were approved by a majority vote.

## **7. Resolution to ratify the admission of Shir Jadash, Comunidad Judia Reformista Valenciana**

The Chair led discussions on the admission of new congregations and the upgrade of existing ones. The meeting thanked Rabbi Alona Lisitsa for her continued work and contribution to Progressive Judaism in Iberia. The meeting resolved the decision by the Executive Board on 10 June to appoint Shir Jadash, the reform congregation of Valencia, as an Associate Member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, in terms of the provision to Section 4.2 of the Constitution. The resolution was proposed by Ian Lancaster and seconded by Veronika Lederman and was approved by a majority.

## **8. Resolution to ratify the admission of Or Hatzafon Finland**

The meeting resolved the decision by the Executive Board on 10 June to appoint Or Hatzafon Finland, based in Helsinki, as an Associate member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, in terms of the provision to Section 4.2 of the Constitution. The resolution was proposed by Miriam Kramer and seconded by Benjamin Fantini and was approved by a majority.

## **9. Resolution to ratify the upgrade of the community of Hehaver Ohel Jacob, Portugal**

The meeting resolved the decisions by the Executive Board on 10 June 2024 to appoint the community of Hehaver Ohel Jacob, Lisbon, Portugal as a Full member of the EUPJ with effect from that date, in terms of Section 4 of the Constitution, in terms provision to Section 4.2 of the Constitution. The resolution was proposed by Ian Lancaster and Paul Gompes and was approved by a majority. It was noted that the Executive Board had approved a proposal that as of 28 July 2024 at 4pm CET Portugal would be granted one seat at the European Assembly of the EUPJ. Andre Falcao shall be appointed as the European Assembly delegate for Portugal until the 2026 European Assembly, at which point he shall be eligible for re-election.

## **10. Resolution to ratify the Appointment to the EUPJ Executive Board**

Most of these appointments can be made by the Constituent Members at any time in the year and some appointments which the Executive Board must approve. A list of The Executive Board had been circulated and posted on EUPJ's website. Only the changes in red required approval. Subsequently, we have been advised of one further change after this meeting's notice period, but it does not make any difference to the composition of the board. Katherine Gundolf, representing Austria has stood down for personal reasons and the community have nominated Andrew Solomon. He will be able to take up his position on the Executive Board immediately and will be ratified later. Similarly, there are several vacancies which will be filled in the future and will be ratified later. The Chair thanked the Board for their sacred work on the Board, many of whom were on the list. The list was ratified.

## **11. Discussion of Annual Report**

The Chair invited the meeting to advise that no other reports had been received. Ian Lancaster commended the report and was proud that he was part of the movement. He recommended that the copy was printed, and the hard copy distributed and translated into several languages. No formal resolution was made due to potential cost concerns. Hard copies of the current Annual Report can be made available on request. The Chair asked for volunteers to translate the document. Deborah and Dominika are reviewing the communication strategy and can add this request to their recommendations.

In conclusion to the meeting, the Chair thanked Deborah Grabiner for her effort in producing the Annual Report and for her continued work across the movement's activities. Miriam Kramer was thanked for her tireless effort, not only as President, but for her proof reading and any mistakes are entirely down to Deborah and the Chair.

The Chair reminded the meeting about the Shabbaton in Vienna. Andrew Solomon, representative from Austria, echoed the Chair's words and welcomed members of the Executive Board to the Shabbaton being planned in Vienna. The Chair invited Rabbi Dr Andrew Goldstein, Honorary Life President to say a few words. He thanked the Chair and the EUPJ for their work and felt the movement was developing and being renewed with lots of new members of the European Assembly involved.

The Chair thanked the President and Honorary Life Presidents who have remained loyal to EUPJ but also to Gordon Smith, who has held several senior posts over many years, also worked very hard to help the EUPJ and to David Pollak, an ex-Treasurer, who has patiently worked with Pierre and herself to make somethings more understandable and accessible from the details they had inherited. An extended thank you was given to the Management Committee who have worked hard and regularly attend meetings.

One final point before closing the meeting, the Chair reminded the meeting that the High Holidays were fast approaching and if any community required rabbinical support during this time, that they should let EUPJ know by writing to the administrator or herself, with your requirements.

The Chair thanked the delegates and looked forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Vienna.

The meeting closed at 18.24.

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Chair of the European Assembly Meeting



# EUPJ CONTACT

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Administrator

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Check out the website

[www.eupj.org](http://www.eupj.org)

Registered Charity No: 253000

EUPJ is an affiliate of the World Union for Progressive Judaism

W O R L D  
U N I O N F O R  
P R O G R E S S I V E  
J U D A I S M



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ל י ה ד ו ת  
מ ת ק ד מ ת