

Community Briefing

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

AUGUST 09

Keeping you informed...

AV /5769



JFS Judgement Sends Shockwaves through Community - the Board continues to lead a cross-communal response to the recent JFS court ruling. After consultation with all the Synagogal bodies, the Board has decided that should an appeal be made to the House of Lords, the Board would apply to intervene as an interested party. The Board would assist by giving testimony on the definition of a Jew, maintaining the Jewish community's inherent right to decide who is a member of it based on status and not on practice or belief.

Keeping Schools On Top - as part of its ongoing strategy to safeguard Jewish education, the Board is launching a new termly bulletin for Jewish schools around the country, designed to provide updates on current education policy issues, their relevance and potential impact on the Jewish community. Launch date: November 2009 prior to Governor Meetings.

Hundreds of Youngsters learned about Judaism in July when the Board's travelling Jewish Way of Life Exhibition (JWOL) touched down in the Tower Hamlets area of London. Students from area schools learned about Jewish culture, customs and religion. Next stop Belfast for a six week stay in October.

Fighting Antisemitism in the Workplace - as part of its commitment to support people experiencing Jewish discrimination in the workplace, the Board dealt with five related complaints over the past two weeks and is making the appropriate representations.

Promoting Equality for Jews - a proposed EU Directive intended to promote equality could in fact have restrictive implications on Jewish schools and Jewish charities. Subsequent submissions have therefore been made by the Board to the Government, stating that the Jewish community strongly opposes any change in the law.

Board Opens New Diplomatic Doors - The Board led a delegation to the American Embassy, raising several critical issues facing Jews globally, including sanctions on Iran, government sponsored anti-semitism in Venezuela and the development of hate crime legislation in Europe and the US.

Board Protests Lithuanian Action - the Board actively works to support Diaspora Jewry as prejudicial issues arise and accordingly, has written to the Lithuanian Ambassador to dispute a new restitution bill for Jewish property seized during World War II. The bill disregards the recent Terezin declaration, signed by Lithuania along with 45 other countries, which was designed to encourage countries to specify the amount of money and in which timeframe it would be paid to victims.



If you have any questions about this briefing or you'd like to know more about the work of The Board, contact us at the office...

Board of Deputies of British Jews
6 Bloomsbury Square, London
WC1A 2LP
T - 020 7543 5400
F - 020 7543 0010
E - info@bod.org.uk
W - www.bod.org.uk