

Community Briefing

The Board of Deputies of British Jews

SEPT 09

Keeping you informed...

Ellul 5769



Board Applies to Assist Supreme Court with JFS Judgement - As Jewish schools around the country grapple with implementing new admissions requirements based on the recent High Court JFS School ruling, the Board awaits a response from the Supreme Court (formerly the House of Lords) to find out whether or not it will be permitted to act as an impartial 'intervener,' for the purpose of giving testimony on the definition of a Jew. The case is scheduled to begin on 27 October.

Safeguarding Jewish Teachers' Rights - The Board met with the Jewish Teachers Association (JTA), to discuss strategies to safeguard Jewish teachers legislative entitlement to leave work early for Shabbat, as well as ensuring time off for Jewish holidays. The Board has also begun working with the JTA to tackle unacceptable, in classroom political discourse regarding Israel.

Board Slams Swedish Newspaper 'Blood Libel' - In the face of Sweden's major daily newspaper accusing the IDF of harvesting the organs of Palestinians during Operation Cast Lead, the Board contacted the Swedish Embassy expressing its dismay at such libellous, offensive claims. The Board will pursue the issue when it visits the Swedish Embassy at the beginning of this month to also discuss Sweden's imminent accession to the EU Presidency.

Board Protests Syria's Actions - Ahead of his trip to Syria, the Board petitioned Ivan Lewis, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, regarding Syria's support for Hamas and Hezbollah. The Board will further discuss at its upcoming, regular briefing with the Foreign Office.

Board Launches Campaign for Inter Faith Week - Vivian Wineman, President of the Board, has written to all constituent communities calling for their participation in Inter Faith Week, taking place this year from 15 - 21 November. The week serves as an opportunity to showcase the meaningful work that is already going on in the Jewish community, as well as promoting new engagement with other faiths and cultures. Interfaith activity continues to offer a crucial means of combating antisemitism, and cooperation between the faiths is vital in the pursuit of common goals.

Lithuanian Cemetery Dispute Resolved - After three years of campaigning by the Board, a settlement has finally been reached in a dispute over an historic Jewish cemetery in the Lithuanian capital, Vilnius. Construction of an office and apartment complex began on the site in 2005, against the wishes of the local Jewish community. The government have finally agreed to designate the cemetery as a protected site, protecting any unauthorised digging in the area where Jewish graves lie.



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...

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