



World Jewish Restitution Organization



February 15, 2022

His Excellency Egils Levits  
President of the Republic of Latvia  
Pils laukums 3  
Rīga, LV-1900  
Latvia

Dear President Levits,

On February 10, 2022, the Latvian Saeima passed the Law of Goodwill Reimbursement to the Latvian Jewish Community. This was an historic measure that was rightly greeted with applause and appreciation from organizations and individuals throughout the world, including international Jewish organizations. World leaders like US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid also expressed strong support for the passage of the law. This surely signaled how important it is to Latvian Jews, to world Jewry, and to supportive governments that this longstanding issue involving outstanding Jewish communal and religious properties has finally and positively been resolved.

This has not only been a matter of redressing financial loss. It is also recognition of the suffering that the Jewish Community had endured during the darkest days of the Twentieth Century, and provides a basis for furthering remembrance of the Holocaust in Latvia well as supporting Holocaust survivors in their old age.

We write to you as members of the Council of the Latvian Jewish Community Restitution Fund (LEKOREF), the Foundation that will be responsible for receiving and managing these compensation funds. We want to assure you that the Foundation will operate with fairness and transparency, and to the benefit of the Latvian Jewish Community, to the Latvian society more generally, and to Holocaust survivors from Latvia.

President Levits, when you sign this bill into law it will bring closure to all restitution matters concerning claims to Jewish religious and communal properties. We can then look toward the future and building a vibrant and sustainable Latvian Jewish Community.

Respectfully, on behalf of,

Arkady Suharenko  
Chairman  
Latvian Council of Jewish Communities

Gideon Taylor  
Chair of Operations  
World Jewish Restitution Organization

Rabbi Andrew Baker  
Director of International Jewish Affairs  
American Jewish Committee

cc: H.E. Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs  
H.E. Māris Selga, Ambassador of Latvia to the United States  
H.E. John L. Carwile, Ambassador of the United States to Latvia  
H.E. Ellen Germain, Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, United States Department of State  
H.E. Stuart E. Eizenstat, Special Adviser on Holocaust Issues, United States Department of State  
H.E. Dan Haezrachy, Special Envoy for Holocaust Era Restitution, State of Israel  
Mr. Dmitry Krupnikov, Chairman, Latvian Jewish Community Restitution Fund  
Mr. Mark Weitzman, Chief Operating Officer, World Jewish Restitution Organization