



## WORLD JEWISH RESTITUTION ORGANIZATION

(ע.ר.)

ארגון יהודי עולמי להשבת רכוש (א"ל"ר)

5 Mapu Street  
Jerusalem, Israel 94189  
E-mail: [wjro1@wjro.org.il](mailto:wjro1@wjro.org.il)

February 10, 2022

Ms. Ināra Mūrniece  
Speaker of the Saeima

Mr. Jānis Urbanovičs  
“Saskaņa” sociāldemokrātiskās partijas frakcija

Mr. Juris Jurašš  
Jauno konservatīvo frakcija

Mr. Uldis Augulis  
Zaļo un Zemnieku savienības frakcija

Mr. Aldis Gobzems  
Frakcija "Neatkarīgie", Frakcija KPV LV

Mr. Jūris Pūce  
Frakcija “Attīstībai/Par!”

Mr. Ainars Latkovskis  
Frakcija JAUNĀ VIENOTĪBA

Re: Law on Compensation of Goodwill to the Latvian Jewish Community

Dear Leaders of the Saeima,

On behalf of the World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO), we wish to commend Latvia for the recent passage of vital restitution legislation, which provides reimbursement for properties belonging to Jewish religious and communal organizations before the Soviet occupation of Latvia in June 1940, which could not be previously returned through denationalization laws.

WJRO, comprised of 14 major international Jewish organizations, represents Jews worldwide in seeking the recovery of, or compensation for, property wrongfully taken during the Holocaust and its aftermath, in countries outside of Germany and Austria. In Latvia, WJRO works closely with the Latvian Council of Jewish Communities (LCJC). WJRO also serves on the Council of the Latvian Jewish Community Restitution Fund (LEKOREF).

The legislation adopted on February 10, 2022 is a meaningful acknowledgement of the immense tragedy that befell Latvian Jewry, and a powerful statement of Latvia’s abiding goodwill to its Jewish Community and to Latvian Holocaust survivors. This historic law, which completes the process of Jewish communal and religious property restitution in Latvia, demonstrates that even 77 years after the Holocaust, a measure of justice is achievable.

---

WJRO Members: Agudath Israel World Organization; American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Their Descendants; American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; B’nai B’rith International; Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel; Conference of European Rabbis; Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; European Council of Jewish Communities; European Jewish Congress; Jewish Agency for Israel; National Coalition Supporting Eurasian Jewry; World Jewish Congress; World Zionist Organization

We applaud Latvia's important achievement, and we look forward to working together with the Government of Latvia and our partners in LEKOREF to implement the law and provide social and material assistance to Holocaust survivors from Latvia, preserve the memory of those who perished, and help the Latvian Jewish community further revitalize itself.

Sincerely,



Gideon Taylor  
Chair of Operations  
World Jewish Restitution Organization



Mark Weitzman  
Chief Operating Officer  
World Jewish Restitution Organization

CC: H.E. Egils Levits, President of Latvia  
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  
H.E. Irwin Cotler, Special Envoy on Preserving Holocaust Remembrance and Combatting Antisemitism, Canada  
H.E. Lord Eric Pickles, Special Envoy for Post-Holocaust Issues, United Kingdom  
Mr. Arkady Suharenko, Chairman, Latvian Council of Jewish Communities  
Mr. Dmitry Krupnikov, Chairman, Latvian Jewish Community Restitution Fund  
Ms. Samantha Wynne, International Policy Manager, World Jewish Restitution Organization