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## The Committee of the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Europe



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**CLARIFICATION**

We write this clarification further to the written statement issued in Elul 5775 (September 2015) by the esteemed Rabbinical Board of the Committee for the Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries in Europe: Rabbi Elyokim Schlesinger – Rosh Yeshivo *Horomo* and President of the CPJCE, Rabbi Eziel Schechter – *Moreh Tzedek*-London, Rabbi Ahron Dovid Dunner – Dayan UOHC and Rabbi of *Adas Yisroel*, Rabbi Ze'ev Feldman – Dayan UOHC and Rabbi of *Torah Etz Chayim*, Rabbi Yosef Padwa – Dayan UOHC and Rabbi of *Cheshev Ho'eifod*, Rabbi Benzion Blum – Dayan Bobov-London, Rabbi Shemaya Low – Dayan and *Rosh Kollel* Satmar-London, Rabbi Yosef Binyomin Wosner - former Rabbi of *Kehal Yetev Lev* Satmar-London [currently Rosh Yeshiva *Chachmei* Lublin – Bnei Brak], with the blessing and agreement of Rabbi Efrayim Padwa, *Av Beis Din* of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations in London. Their statement expresses their support and backing for our holy work, and for the negotiations and agreement signed with the Lithuanian Government to save the Snipiskes Jewish Cemetery in Vilnius. The late internationally recognised halachic authority - Rabbi Shmuel Wosner – author of *Shevet Halevy*, also expressed his blessing and support for our activities in this case, in writing: 'The approach of the Committee is correct, ethical and effective for the honour of the Torah scholars and saintly rabbis who rest there.'

We hereby wish to reiterate and stress that every move that is made in our efforts to preserve the above-mentioned cemetery, is carried out strictly in accordance with the detailed rulings and guidance of our rabbis. We act as their representatives and our own views are fully subjugated to the Torah rulings of the CPJCE's Rabbinical Board.

We believe that it is solely through this that we have been able to stop the destruction of the cemetery, which had been ongoing until we became involved. We are continuing our efforts to ensure the protection of the cemetery and its graves, in accordance with the rulings and guidance of our Rabbinical Board. We have in fact witnessed remarkable Divine assistance in our efforts for the preservation of the Snipiskes cemetery, and also in our efforts for the preservation of some 200 cemeteries and mass-graves throughout Lithuania, and through our involvement a special committee has been established by the Lithuanian Government to ensure their protection.

At this time, we wish to inform the public that BSD we have been successful in establishing effective contacts with European Government authorities who assist us in our activities (that of course vary in their nature, depending on local situations and conditions), and we are available to deal with Jewish cemetery preservation issues – all in accordance with the rulings and guidance of our Rabbinical Board, who dedicate themselves to the task of saving and protecting thousands of European Jewish cemeteries, and experience Divine assistance in their work.

May the merit of our efforts to protect the graves of the departed protect us and may we all very soon merit our full redemption, and be blessed with a *Kesiva Vachasima Tova* (to be inscribed and sealed for a good New Year).

Rosh Chodesh Elul 5780 (21<sup>st</sup> August '20).

Rabbi Yeshaya Yechiel Schlesinger

Director of the CPJCE and member of Rabbinical Board

Moshe Herschaft      Yochanon Chaim Stroh      Avrohom Chaim Ginsberg

On behalf of the Committee