

**MEMORANDUM REGARDING THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERPETUATION OF
THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF VILNIUS AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF ITS
ENVIRONMENT**

_____ 2022

Vilnius

The City of Vilnius, code 111109233, registered office address Konstitucijos pr. 3, LT-09308 Vilnius, represented by the Mayor of the City of Vilnius Remigijus Šimašius, acting under _____ (hereinafter – the City),

The Jewish (Litvak) Community of Lithuania, code _____, registered office address _____, represented by the Chair Faina Kukliansky, acting under _____ (hereinafter – LJC),

The public institution “Geros valios kompensacijos už žydų religinių bendruomenių nekilnojamąjį turtą disponavimo fondas” (English: Good Will Foundation for Distributing Compensation for Real Estate Property of Jewish Religious Communities), code _____, registered office address _____, represented by the Acting Director Indrė Rutkauskaitė, acting under _____ (hereinafter – GWF), and endorsed by Andrew Baker, American Jewish Community Director of International Jewish Affairs, the founder of the GWF,

implementing the Resolution No XIII-1142 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 10 May 2018 “On Designating the Year 2020 as the Year of the Vilna Gaon and the History of the Jews of Lithuania”,

acting in line with the Resolution No 786 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 24 July 2019 “On the Approval of the Plan for the Commemoration of the Year of the Vilna Gaon and the History of the Jews of Lithuania in 2020”,

understanding that:

- the Great Synagogue of Vilnius and its facilities is a unique Jewish (Litvak) sacred site. This is a place where the Vilna Gaon Elijah ben Solomon Zalman, whose 300th anniversary was celebrated in 2020, worked and created;

- the Soviet government nationalised the Great Synagogue of Vilnius and its facilities in 1940;
- although the Great Synagogue of Vilnius and its facilities were not destroyed during World War II, they were left severely damaged, and in this condition, both the sanctuary and the other buildings could have been preserved and rebuilt. However, the Soviet authorities demolished the Synagogue and its other buildings in 1955–1957 and built a kindergarten in its place, where the Vytė Nemunėlis Primary School was established after the restoration of independence (the school was eventually moved out with the help of the City of Vilnius);
- in 2011, the Government and the Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania initiated archaeological research of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius, which allowed discovering more facts about the sacred parts of the Synagogue and its facilities. Today, the research continues from the funds of the GWF;
- several of these discovered archaeological sites [*to be listed*] are now owned by the GWF;
- after World War II, the Jewish community in Vilnius and Lithuania declined significantly and is now dying out altogether. There are a very few practising Jews, so there is no need for one more synagogue in Vilnius;
- using the remnants of such an important ensemble as the Great Synagogue of Vilnius for commercial purposes and developing real estate on or adjacent to its territory would be incompatible with the sacred nature of the site;
- the guidelines for the memorialisation of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius drawn up by the International Heritage Advisory Working Group on the initiative of the Jewish (Litvak) Community of Lithuania must be observed. These guidelines do not provide for the restoration of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius, nor the construction of a commercial building, as this would send a false message to the public;
- the aim is to create a memorial square on the territory of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius and its facilities, establishing therein a Jewish Community Centre, which would meet the needs of the Jews of Vilnius and would serve the educational function of the general public, telling about the Great Synagogue and its history;
- in the current climate change environment, the modern city should preserve as much greenery as possible to meet the needs of the Jewish Community Centre and to commemorate the Great Synagogue of Vilnius in a meaningful way.

Seq. No.	Action	Executor/ division/ promoter in charge	Financed by	Completion deadline
1.	To prepare a project for the formation and redevelopment of the area covering 6226 (six thousand two hundred and twenty-six) square meters of the territory in Žydų Street with the aim to form two state land plots of 4898 square meters and 1328 square meters of conservation purpose for the use of the objects of cultural heritage designated for the preservation of the foundation of the Great Synagogue, the establishment of a memorial square, and preservation of communication infrastructure.	the City	the City	2021
2.	<p>The kindergarten building of the total area of 947.19 square meters located at Vokiečių Street 13A, which is currently owned by the City, shall be transferred to the Goodwill Foundation by way of usufruct or another management right in accordance with the procedure established by law. The parties understand that this clause may be implemented after the Vilnius City Council approves such a decision by a separate resolution.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>The City shall demolish the kindergarten building at Vokiečių Street 13A of the total area of 947.19 square meters, which is currently managed by the City under the right of ownership.</p>	<p>the City</p> <p>GWF – for choosing one of the two actions</p> <p>the City – for the implementation of the action</p>	<p>GWF – for choosing an action</p> <p>the City – the implementation of the action</p>	<p>Q3 2022</p> <p>GWF shall inform the City about its chosen action plan within 3 months from the signature date</p> <p>Q4 2022</p>
3.	Preparation of tender conditions for the design of the Jewish Centre and the Great Synagogue Square, its publicity, including a survey by the Goodwill Foundation, in consultation with the Lithuanian Jewish community and other stakeholders, to identify the social, cultural, welfare, educational and other needs of the new object, which shall be taken into consideration in the design and construction tenders.	GWF, the City	GWF	Q3 2022
4.	Publication of a tender of the design of the Jewish Centre and the Great Synagogue Square, selection of the successful tenderer	GWF, VMS	GWF	Q2 2023
5.	Preparation of a technical and arrangement design for the Jewish Centre and the Great Synagogue Square	GWF, VMS	GWF	Q3 2024

Seq. No.	Action	Executor/ division/ promoter in charge	Financed by	Completion deadline
6.	Installation of the Jewish Centre and the Great Synagogue Square – procurement of contract works, contract works. The GWF and the LJC shall coordinate works of installation of the Jewish Centre and the Great Synagogue Square.	GWF, LJC	GWF with an additional public and private financial support	Q2 2026

City of Vilnius

Konstitucijos pr. 3, LT-09308 Vilnius

Code: 120750163

VAT code LT887100610

Mayor of the City of Vilnius

Remigijus Šimašius

(name, surname, signature)

Place of seal

Jewish (Litvak) Community of Lithuania

Code

Chair Faina Kukliansky

(name, surname, signature)

Place of seal

Good Will Foundation

Code

Acting Director Indrė Rutkauskaitė

(name, surname, signature)

Place of seal

American Jewish Community

Endorsed by

Andrew Baker, Director of the American Jewish Community, the founder of the GWF

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