

From: **Shmuel Yatom** <sinagoga1903@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Feb 23, 2026 at 4:31 PM

Subject: Clarification of Status and Procedures at the Vilnius Choral Synagogue

To: Rabbi Sholom B. Krinsky <rabbikrinsky@gmail.com>

Dear Mr. Krinsky,

After you lost a minyan at your own center, you were permitted to pray together with the Litvak community. This was an act of respect and accommodation on the part of our community.

However, it must be clearly reiterated that you are not the rabbi of the Choral Synagogue, you hold no position in its administration, and you have no authority in matters of governance or decision-making within the synagogue.

The previous agreement, under which you once served as a rabbi, has long expired and is no longer valid. Accordingly, you have no official status or mandate within the Vilnius Choral Synagogue. Like every other visitor and congregant, you are required to abide by the established rules and procedures of this holy place.

The Vilnius Choral Synagogue is the only functioning synagogue in Vilnius and serves the entire religious community. For this reason, order, responsibility, and respect for established procedures are essential.

Regrettably, your conduct has repeatedly demonstrated the opposite. There have been instances of provocations, public insults directed at communal leaders, circulation of rumors and misinformation, and actions that have contributed to tensions within the community.

Let us be absolutely clear: if you wish to organize any event or activity within the synagogue premises, it must be coordinated in advance with the administration. A formal agreement must be signed prior to any such event, ensuring full compliance with all applicable safety regulations - including public safety, fire safety, occupational safety, hygiene standards, and the laws of kashrut. These requirements are mandatory and non-negotiable.

You have at your disposal your own premises where you are free to organize activities and events at your discretion. The Vilnius Choral Synagogue, however, operates according to established rules that apply equally to all. The synagogue is not a place where items may be brought in without authorization, nor is it a storage facility for personal belongings. We have repeatedly observed behavior by you and members of your circle that does not comply with the established rules of the synagogue.

For Jews living in Lithuania, descendants of the Vilna Gaon, dignity, order, and reverence are binding principles. Disrespectful conduct in this sanctified house of prayer will be addressed firmly and without hesitation.

Strict adherence to synagogue regulations is expected.

Sincerely,
Administration, Vilnius Jewish Religious Community