

# Nostra Aetate

In October 1965, dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Jewish community was opened up by *Nostra Aetate*, an historic document about relations between Catholicism and non-Christian faiths that was published by the Vatican. Since then, the conversation has flourished.

Five years ago, SCoJeC and the Roman Catholic Church marked the 40th anniversary of *Nostra Aetate* by a reception and tree-planting at the home of Cardinal Keith O'Brien in Edinburgh (see *Four Corners* issue 8). This year we will mark the 45th anniversary by holding an interfaith seminar in Giffnock Synagogue on the 6 October, jointly hosted by Rabbi Moshe Rubin and the Archbishop of Glasgow, Mario Conti.

The main contributors will be Chief Rabbi David Rosen and Father John Pawlikowski, who are both involved in the International Council of Christians and Jews. They will also address public meetings on 5 October at Glasgow University, on 6 October at Edinburgh University, and on 7 October at Aberdeen University. Rabbi Rosen, who is Honorary Advisor on Interfaith Relations to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel, was made a CBE in 2010 for his contribution to interfaith relations in the Middle East, and good relations between Israel and the UK. He also has the unusual distinction of having been awarded a papal knighthood for his contribution to the reconciliation between Catholics and Jews.

CONTACT SCOJEC FOR  
MORE INFORMATION



שנה טובה — A HAPPY NEW YEAR

FROM EVERYONE AT SCOJEC

## Our Website gets a Makeover!

Over the summer the SCoJeC website has been completely redesigned. The most obvious change is that it now features the new form of our logo, and there are also lots of new features. These include a noticeboard where communal organisations can publicise events and advertise for volunteers and staff. There is now also an online discussion area where you can air your opinions and discuss topics that are important to you. You can also keep up-to-date by signing up to the RSS feeds that have been added to the 'new on site' and 'current consultations' pages. Don't worry though - we've still kept your old favourites, such as the Guidebook, *Four Corners*, and *Scotland's Jews*!

SCoJeC has also been working with the Pears Foundation and Learning and Teaching Scotland to make the highly-acclaimed Jewish Way of Life resource available to schools in Scotland, and it is now available on our website at [www.scojec.org/resources/jwol/jwol.html](http://www.scojec.org/resources/jwol/jwol.html).

So come and visit our fresh new site! You'll be in good company - more than 2000 people visit it every month, reading, on average, nearly 25,000 pages between them. Find your way around with ease, join in a variety of discussions, send us information about anything you'd like advertised - and let us know what you think about the new design!

The one thing that hasn't changed is the address - you'll find us at [www.scojec.org](http://www.scojec.org)



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FOUR CORNERS IS ON THE WEB  
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MANY THANKS TO GLENMORANGIE FOR SPONSORING THIS ISSUE OF FOUR CORNERS

## L'Chaim to that!

Glenmorangie Original, Astar, and Ardbeg have recently received kosher certification from the Orthodox Union. "We are very pleased to have Glenmorangie become the first major single malt scotch brand to attain OU certification," said Rabbi Eliyahu Safran, OU Kosher's Vice President of Communications and Marketing. Welcoming their new status, Brian Cox, Glenmorangie's USA Brand Director, said "The OU Kosher certification will bring our iconic brand to an entirely new consumer base that can now enjoy our products."

So look out for the logo, and let's toast the new year in true Scottish style with a kosher certified whisky!



## Happy Birthday!

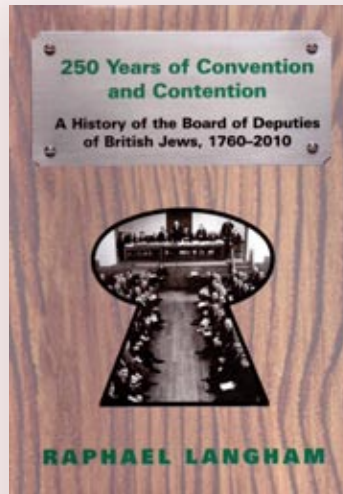
250 years

The Board of Deputies of British Jews, a sister organisation to the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities, celebrated its 250th anniversary on 20th June 2010. Four hundred past and present Deputies came together for a party in the UK's oldest synagogue, Bevis Marks, in the City of London. The party was paid for using a legacy from the late Gertrude Shilling, a deputy well known for her extravagant headgear, and guests came wearing hats of all types, from fedoras, to panamas, to bowlers, to honour her memory.

After drinks in the courtyard at Bevis Marks, the birthplace of the Board of Deputies in 1760, the party moved inside, and the President and Honorary Officers, along with the lay leaders of all the religious denominations in the community, applauded 250 years of promoting and protecting the civil liberties of Jewish people in the UK.

Edward Green, the deputy from Edinburgh, said, "We have a lot to be thankful to the Board of Deputies for. For 250 years, it has represented the Jews of Britain, protected their rights, voiced their concerns, and petitioned and campaigned wherever necessary. Most fittingly, they have also helped to ensure that British Jews' compassion and concern for others is seen and acted on."

This is the second big anniversary that the UK Jewish community has celebrated – last year was the 350th anniversary of the readmission of Jews to England by Cromwell. Jews were never readmitted to Scotland because they were never expelled (although that may be because they were none here to expel!!)



### 250 YEARS OF CONVENTION AND CONTENTION

A History of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, 1760-2010 by Raphael Langham

BOOK REVIEW BY KENNETH COLLINS

The Board of Deputies is rightly proud to be celebrating the completion of two hundred and fifty years of service to the British Jewish community. Most of the Scottish synagogues, the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, as well as SCoJeC, are affiliated to the Board, and their deputies have been involved in

a wide range of Board activities. One of the current Vice-Presidents is Glasgow-based Paul Edlin, and Scottish Deputies Judith Tankel and Ephraim Borowski were successive Chairs of the Regional Council for 14 of the last 17 years.

Beginning as a representative organisation of London's Jews, the Board grew to encompass members from communities from all over Britain. In recent years it has supported the functioning of SCoJeC, recognising the Scottish devolution settlement, which saw the establishment of a Parliament in Edinburgh with legislative powers. However, the book does not even mention Scottish educational or legal issues that the Board helped with in the pre-devolution era, let alone the recent momentous shift in the representation of the Scottish Jewish Community. Indeed, quite bizarrely for a genuine national organisation, there is no mention of any Jewish activity outside London in the past century and a half.

The Board's history is also ill served by the often pedestrian prose and poor arrangement of material. It has also been criticised for its uncritical approach and avoidance of many contentious issues. Nevertheless, it does cover many issues and events over the past two and half centuries that will engage the reader's interest. Further, it is to the Board's credit that they have proposed launching their history in communities around the country. However, because this book excludes key elements of the national Jewish story, this exercise is unlikely contribute to a positive image of the Board in the regions.



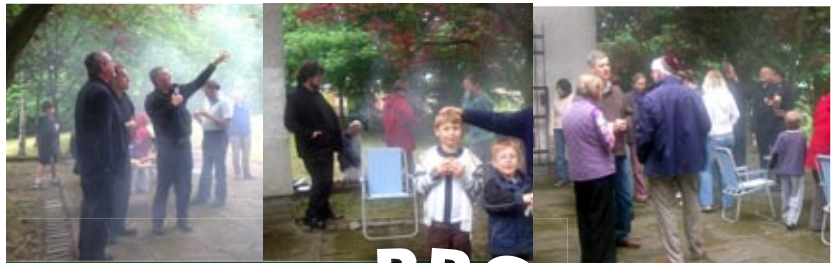
DAVID SHILLING,  
IN ASCOT HAT,  
WELCOMES DEPUTIES  
TO BEVIS MARKS

The JPR recently commissioned Ipsos/MORI to investigate the attitudes of British Jews to Israel. The researchers received more than 4000 responses to their questionnaire, and their report, entitled *Committed, concerned and conciliatory*, was published in July 2010.

**The main findings are:**

- For 82% of the respondents, Israel plays an 'important' role in their Jewish identities.
- 72% categorise themselves as Zionists, 21% do not.
- Less than a third (31%) feel that Israel has a responsibility for ensuring the safety of Jews around the world. By contrast, 77% agree that Jews have a responsibility to support Israel, and even more (87%) think that Jews worldwide should ensure the survival of Israel.
- A large majority (78%) favours a two-state solution to the conflict with the Palestinians.
- Just over half (52%) think that Israel should negotiate with Hamas, while 39% think it should not. Respondents with higher level qualifications are more likely to agree (67%).
- A majority (72%) agrees that Israeli military action in Gaza in 2008-09 was a legitimate act of self-defence.
- A large majority (80%) feels that 'Democracy is alive and well' in Israel, but, 67% agree that 'there is too much corruption.'
- Almost two thirds (64%) agree with the statement that 'The State of Israel has a moral responsibility to send aid to non-Jews in need around the world.'
- Over three-quarters (76%) feel that Israel is relevant to their day-to-day lives in Britain. Even so, 67% do not feel any conflict of loyalty regarding Britain and Israel.
- Just over a quarter (26%) say that they 'feel uncomfortable living in Britain because of events in Israel'. Respondents living in parts of the country with fewer Jews are the most likely to feel uncomfortable.
- Most respondents (85%) had discussed Israel with non-Jews in the twelve months leading up to the survey, but women are more likely than men to try to avoid the topic.
- Almost a quarter (23%) of the sample had witnessed some form of antisemitic incident in the previous year.
- More than one in ten respondents (11%) said they had been subjected to a verbal antisemitic insult or attack in the 12 months leading up to the survey.
- Over half of both the previous groups (56%) believe that the incident was 'probably' or 'definitely' related to the abuser's or assailant's views on Israel.
- In general, the more religious respondents said they were, the more hawkish their stance on political and security issues; the more secular they were, the more dovish their stance.
- Respondents with higher levels of educational attainment tended to exhibit more dovish stances on political and security issues compared with those with lower levels of educational attainment.

READ THE REPORT AT [HTTP://WWW.JPR.ORG.UK/](http://www.jpr.org.uk/)



# Dundee BBQ

SHARON LEVY

Despite a wet start, by late afternoon when we all went out to admire Jo's excellent grill skills, the weather was sunny, fresh, and beautiful. Thirty



Dundee synagogue members and guests enjoyed the delicious food whilst admiring the garden, which had been manicured especially for the occasion!

We were joined by four members of Tayside police, who were given a tour of the synagogue, and who, in return, offered us valuable advice about security and maintaining a safe environment. And to round off a great day, the winning entry and runners-up were announced in our competition to design a new logo for the synagogue.

Thanking SCOJeC for arranging for the production of a professional version of the winning design, Sharon Levy, Chair of Dundee Synagogue said, "The logo brings about needed change, and symbolises a bright future for the community."

The winning logo design, a dove carrying an olive branch against a backdrop of a Magen David, is by Henry Azoulay (age 13).



Dundee Hebrew Congregation

Runner-up logo design, by Sammy Campbell (aged 5). In the middle is the Star of David. Underneath to the left is a "smiley faced kippa" and to the right is a menorah. At the bottom left is another menorah and to the right is a rose, as there are roses by the Synagogue.

The Dundee community welcomed visitors from Thailand, Poland, USA, Canada, Israel, and South Africa to a special Shabbat service and kiddush in St Andrews during the Open golf tournament.

# Rosh Hashanah

DITZA GRANAT

Bleep beep beebabeebeeeeep. A hand stretches out from under the blanket and whacks the alarm off. Or do you put the pillow over your head in the vain hope of blocking out the sound? Or maybe you have trained yourself to sleep through that incessantly loud noise? Whatever your reaction to the morning alarm sounding, we all want that “just five minutes more” before we have to tear away from our dreams, get up, and face our real lives.

There are those with foresight, who set several alarms to go off ten minutes after one another, the first before they actually have to get up. This, in fact, is the role of the Shofar, which is blown every day, except Shabbat, during the Hebrew month of Ellul. It is our spiritual alarm, reminding us that Rosh Hashanah is coming, and we have to look at ourselves introspectively, and change our ways.

It is as difficult, if not more, to look at ourselves honestly, as it is to leave our warm beds on a rainy morning. But that is our task during Ellul and the High Holidays. We are lucky to have a reminder each year to sort ourselves out, and to acknowledge our shortcomings frankly. Just as we need that alarm in the morning, else we would stay in bed all day, so we need prompting to work on our spiritual lives. It is very easy to forget about our souls in the humdrum of a busy physical life, so fortunately G-d gives us early warning that we are to be judged, so we remember to take care of them.

Acknowledging our shortcomings doesn't mean just asking forgiveness for what we have done wrong, but means comprehending why things were bad, realising how we can improve in those areas, and changing our weaknesses into strengths. It is not only the things that we do wrong that we should change, but also the things we just don't do. That 6 o'clock morning jog you were going to take, the friend you have been meaning to call, the smile and thank-you to the cashier at the supermarket. The Shofar blasts are there to jolt us out of our laziness, to remind us that we can do it. Of course it will take us longer than just the 6 weeks between the beginning of Ellul and Yom Kippur, but it is our wake-up call to start the on-going process.

Shanah Tovah and enjoy your alarm-free Yom Tov shlufs!

## YOM TOV CALENDAR

**Rosh Hashanah:** evening 8th Sept  
& days 9-10th Sept

**Tzom Gedaliah:** 12th Sept

**Kol Nidre:** evening 17th Sept

**Yom Kippur:** 18th Sept

**Succot, Yom Tov:** evening 22nd Sept  
& days 23rd-24th Sept

**Chol HaMoed:** 25-28th Sept

**Hoshannah Rabbah:** 29th Sept

**Shemini Atzeret:** evening 29th Sept  
& day 30th Sept

**Simchat Torah:**  
evening 30th Sept  
& day 1st Oct

# Out of Order?

## Scottish Parliament Motions about other countries

One feature of the Parliament that attracts little attention is that MSPs can table motions on any subject in which they are interested, very often local constituency concerns. The vast majority of members' motions are not debated, and not subject to a vote, but are a nice way to recognise the hard work of local volunteers, or the achievements of the local football team!

Some motions are, however, about more weighty matters, and occasionally MSPs put down motions about countries other than the UK, even though foreign policy is a matter for Westminster, and so outwith the remit of the Scottish Parliament.

In the past year, 2626 members' motions have been submitted, of which around 70 have been about other countries. Some of these are positive, congratulating or applauding the country, or individuals or organisations in that country. Others are negative, condemning the actions of individuals or organisations in a particular country. Some also commiserate or offer condolences, perhaps after a natural disaster.

Perhaps you might expect the highest number of these motions to be about countries such as Iraq or Afghanistan, but in fact the country which receives the most attention is Israel. Of the 26 members' motions submitted about Israel last year, 21 are negative, 4 show Israel in a positive light, and 1 is neutral. The country that attracted next most attention was Malawi, about which there were 9 motions – 2 negative and 7 positive. There were 2 positive, 3 negative, and 1 neutral motions about Iraq, and only 2 motions about Afghanistan. No country apart from Israel made into double figures. One might wonder why.

# VirtualMinyan.Com

ADAPTED FROM A PAPER BY YOEL COHEN, PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM AT ARIEL COLLEGE, AND A LONG-TIME READER OF FOUR CORNERS

It has no *Aron Hakodesh*, no *Sifrei Torah*, no *Bimah*, nor any Rabbi, yet Temple Beit Israel, founded in 2006 in “Second Life”, has 400 worldwide members. Although lacking any physical structure, members and visitors from countries such as Brazil, Holland, the US, and Israel meet online every Shabbat and conduct a service.

So far only the Reform movement has embraced this technology for services, using it, for example, to broadcast Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services online. Since 2006, Temple Bnai Shalom, in Virginia, has podcast its services to enable the ill, elderly, and service personnel with US forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, to listen in.

These communities believe that those who are unable to attend normally will benefit, and that they enable people to join in with prayers that can only be recited in a *minyan*, such as a mourner reciting *Kaddish*.

The Orthodox and Conservative communities do not accept online *minyanim* because they believe that the fundamental criterion for a *minyan* is their physical presence in one place. These communities, however, also agree that if it is not possible to attend an actual *minyan* it is best to daven at the same time as one is taking place, although that would not qualify one for saying communal prayers, such as *Kaddish*.

Many Jewish communities have, however, benefitted from new technology. Religious communities often use the internet to give charity through on-line transactions, and nowadays people can send messages through the internet to be printed and tucked into a crack in the Western Wall. In 2006, the Israeli Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi established a day of prayer through an internet website, “Embracing the world”, to pray for missing Israeli soldiers, and many people organise *tehillim* (psalm-reading) groups by e-mail to pray for the sick.

# Edinburgh's War

HARVEY KAPLAN, DIRECTOR OF THE  
SCOTTISH JEWISH ARCHIVES CENTRE, WWW.SJAC.ORG.UK

*Edinburgh's War* is a joint venture to record Edinburgh's experience in the First World War, that brings together the Centre for the Study of the Two World Wars at Edinburgh University, City of Edinburgh Libraries, and First World War community history groups. A virtual history archive will go live in October, coinciding with a launch exhibition at the University. An approach was made through SCoJeC to obtain information about Edinburgh Jews in the First World War, and, as a result, the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre has been working with Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation to bring together suitable material.

Memorial plaques at Piershill Jewish cemetery and the Edinburgh Synagogue record the names of 19 Edinburgh Jews who gave their lives in the First World War, and now the contribution of these and the many others who served will be appropriately commemorated.

Some of the material will be placed on the project website. Contributions have come from the Archives Centre collection, while Hilary Rifkind gathered reminiscences and photographs from members of the Edinburgh community. All material will be added to the Archives Centre collection of war experiences, and some of it will be displayed in the Centre's information folder on Jews in the First World War.



EDINBURGH JEWISH SOLDIERS OUTSIDE THE SYNAGOGUE IN GRAHAM STREET, PESACH 1917

## *Pakistan Flood Disaster*

No one can fail to have been moved by the recent flood disaster in Pakistan. The graphic pictures in the media and stories of human suffering demand that we, as a Community, respond to this tragedy. In addition to sending words of support to our local Pakistani Community, I consider that the Jewish Community should respond to requests for aid. I am sure that many of you have already contributed to charities providing aid to those affected, and the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council has donated £500 to World Jewish Relief to be utilised specifically to aid those affected by the floods.

We are willing to collect individual donations, and I therefore urge anyone who has not yet done so to send their donations to the GJRC Charitable Fund, 222 Fenwick Road, Glasgow G46 6UE. All donations will be forwarded to World Jewish Relief and acknowledged.

EDWARD ISAACS, PRESIDENT, GLASGOW JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL



## Obituary: HENRY I TANKEL OBE FRCS MD (1926-2010)

Henry Tankel was one of the outstanding Jewish communal leaders of his generation. Even as a young man, he was identified by Chaim Bermant as a role model through his youth work for Glasgow Bnei Akiva. He developed his communal career with the Glasgow Jewish Representative Council, serving as its President from 1974 until 1977, chaired many communal organisations including the Glasgow Jewish Housing Association, the Queens Park Synagogue, and the Glasgow Board of Jewish Education, and was a member of the Glasgow Jewish Community Trust

In his professional life he was a distinguished surgeon, and was also involved in extensive committee work on behalf of his surgical and medical colleagues. He was Chair of the Scottish Joint Consultants Committee, a member of the Scottish Health Service Advisory Council, and served as a Non-Executive Director of the Southern General Hospital NHS Trust. He was awarded an OBE in 1992 in recognition of his contribution to the medical profession.

He led the group set up to conduct religious dialogue with the Church of Scotland, and, in 1984, became the first Jew to address its General Assembly. His close relationship with the local Catholic Church led to a visit to the Vatican and a meeting with the Pope.

He believed in the importance of the Scottish Council of Jewish Communities from the start, and his determined fund-raising, with the late Dr Jack Miller, ensured SCoJeC's viability in its early years. He continued to take a close interest, and until very recently continued to attend joint meetings between SCoJeC and the Church of Scotland.

He was married to Judith Woolfson, who died in 2006, and together they made a formidable communal team. They both actively supported SCoJeC in its successful campaign to have provision for divorcing Jewish couples written into Scottish Family Law.

Henry will be remembered for the considered judgement, valuable advice, and wise counsel that he brought to his extensive community activism, and for his care, sensitivity and determination to succeed.



# SCoJeC ANNUAL REPORT

## Another busy year ...

The most popular event of SCoJeC's year was our "Kosher Ceilidh," which toured Scotland, and received unprecedented responses, bringing music, dancing and stories to almost 1000 people.

SCoJeC is also launching a new Scotland-wide project for young Jewish people in collaboration with the Young Scot "Access all Areas" initiative, a government-funded project aimed at giving young people from minority groups the confidence to influence service provision in their local area, enhance access, and promote inclusion.

During the past year we have met the First Minister, Alex Salmond,

who pledged his support for strategies to help prevent and deter antisemitism. He was pleased to hear that someone was about to be prosecuted for posting vicious antisemitic messages on the Scotsman website, and undertook to write to editors to remind them of their responsibility for what appears on their sites.

At that meeting we also discussed the use of MRI scans in place of surgical post mortems, and explained the importance of this to many faith communities. Both the Lord Advocate and the Solicitor General have expressed their support and we now have their assurance that legislation is not needed in order to go ahead with this in Scotland.

The bulk of SCoJeC's work takes place behind the scenes, and this year we have had discussions with Ministers and officials on a wide range of communal concerns such as Holocaust education, changes in charity regulation, the restitution of looted art, and proposals to increase water charges for religious and charitable institutions. We also respond to government consultations on proposals for changes in legislation. The impact of such changes on our communal organisations can be far reaching, so during the past year SCoJeC held two sessions to brief communal leaders on new legislation covering immigration controls, child protection, new fire regulations, and charity regulations.

WALTER SNEADER

To read the annual reports in full see [www.scojec.org/scojec/annual\\_reports/reports.html](http://www.scojec.org/scojec/annual_reports/reports.html)



## EDINBURGH SYNAGOGUE Festival Open Day

STEPHANIE BRICKMAN



More than 200 people, including a coach-load of 50 from Glasgow, attended the 6th annual Festival Open Day, which featured snippets of Fringe shows with a Jewish connection.

The programme began with music from the local Yiddish Song Project, and included a hilarious extract from the show "She's Black, He's Jewish, They're still married, Oy Vey!" by New Yorkers Stephen Epstein and Niamah Hassan. They had only been in Edinburgh for a few hours before taking to the stage and confided they were a little shell-shocked by the intensity of the Fringe.

A highlight of the day was definitely American singer/song-writer Dean Friedman, who performed three numbers, including his hit "Lydia" and a less well-known song "A Million Matzah Balls". He said, "It was a pleasure to play for an audience that felt instantly familiar." Organiser David Neville said, "I love the eclectic mix of performers that you get, ranging from singers who are at the top of their game, to performers who are in Edinburgh for the first time. I could hardly believe that Dean Friedman was playing our shul piano."

PHOTOGRAPHS LEFT TO RIGHT: PAUL SHAFAR, CHAIR OF NEWTON MEARNS SYNAGOGUE WITH ORGANISER OF THE EVENT, DAVID NEVILLE

STEPHEN EPSTEIN AND NIAMAH HASSAN, OF "SHE'S BLACK, HE'S JEWISH, THEY'RE STILL MARRIED, OY VEY"

YARIV PERELMUTER (LEFT) & NIDAL AGHA (RIGHT) FROM THE SHOW "AN ISRAELI AND A PALESTINIAN WALK INTO A COUNTRY..." WITH HILARY RIFKIND, CHAIR OF EDINBURGH SYNAGOGUE

## Being Jewish in Scotland

SCoJeC and the Community Safety Unit of the Scottish Government have been discussing the possibility of research to explore "the experience of the Jewish community in Scotland, in relation to their safety, with a focus on positive work done by individuals and groups to improve safety overall."

According to the CST, the number of antisemitic incidents reported in 2009 rose significantly from 2008, and although the number of reported incidents is not large, the Scottish Government and the police consider that even one incident is one too many, and they would like to address the concerns of Jews who feel isolated and vulnerable.

SCoJeC therefore invited representatives from a wide range of communal organisations to a meeting to discuss how this could most effectively be carried out. The research is not intended as a forum to address antisemitism, but rather to find out about the experiences of Jewish people in Scotland, and to explore how to give them access to regular, constructive support.

**PLEASE DO GET IN TOUCH WITH US (CONTACT DETAILS ON P1) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES**

We'd like to hear your views about, for example:

- ◆ how Jewish people see their relationship with Scotland;
- ◆ how Jewish people think the community is perceived by the wider community;
- ◆ Jewish people's experiences of how non-Jewish people behave towards them;
- ◆ whether Scotland is a safe place for Jewish people;
- ◆ how Jewish communities have responded to issues of safety; and
- ◆ what still needs to be done to improve safety.

So the research is as inclusive as possible, we want to hear from Jewish people throughout Scotland, from the cities and from more isolated rural areas, and from all or no religious affiliations.