



Covid-19: community message Chanukah 2020

***“Hanerot hallalu anachnu madlikin
Al hanissim ve'al haniflaot ve'al hatshuot”***

***“We light these lights
For the miracles and the wonders and the salvation”***

The message of Chanukah is that there is light at the end of the darkest tunnel. We light lamps in our homes and in our windows in the darkest days of winter, not only to remember the victory of the Maccabees over the Greek invaders, but also as a sign of hope – of warmer days ahead, of freedom from oppression, freedom to practice our own religion in our own way, of a new (civil) year when our prayers at Rosh haShanah for “an end to the old year and its plagues, and new year bringing only blessings” might be fulfilled.

Astonishingly, it is now approaching a full year since normal life, both individually and communally, had to be put on hold. In Jewish terms, the first effect of the emergency was to prevent us spending Pesach as we had planned, but fortunately there was just enough time for the community to come together as never before to make sure that, as the Haggadah promises, “all who were hungry were able to eat”. The entire community must be grateful to all those volunteers who did so much to help tackle isolation and ensure that no-one was left without support.

Then Rosh haShanah, Yom Kippur, and Sukkot followed, with local lockdowns and “the rule of six”. Since one of the few exceptions was fortunately for a maximum of 50 people in places of worship, most shuls held unconventional services – some on Zoom, some in shifts, some in parallel, mostly pared back to the bare minimum. The shofar was sounded outdoors or in a different room from the congregation; many people observed Yom Kippur on our own; there were none of the usual communal activities on Sukkot. And now we are in tiers, and even places of worship are restricted to 20 people in most of the country, making it even more difficult for those who want to seek solace in shul. Those candles of hope will be lit, but there will be few to see them, so please do join the entire Jewish community of Scotland for a [week long programme of virtual events](#), and light your own Chanukah lamps to proclaim your hope for an end to this and all other affliction and adversity.

[See \[www.scojec.org/lockdown.html\]\(http://www.scojec.org/lockdown.html\) for comprehensive information about support available in the Scottish and UK Jewish communities.](http://www.scojec.org/lockdown.html)

SCoJeC and other communal organisations are still here to help. SCoJeC exists to support Jewish people in Scotland. Although we do not provide any welfare services ourselves, we will help point you in the right direction to obtain assistance. This page and the rest of the special Lockdown section of our website summarise the help that is available, and the SCoJeC Helpline is there to help answer questions – e-mail scojec@scojec.org or ring 0141-638 6411 (except Shabbat and festivals) and someone will respond as soon as possible.

Many Scottish synagogues and other communal organisations also have measures in place to help their members, All Scottish communal facilities are listed in our [Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland](#) – see page 2 of the Guide for the very comprehensive index of synagogues, communal organisations, and other resources.

See also www.scojec.org/links_1.html for contact details for Scottish communal organisations, and www.scojec.org/links_2.html for links to UK organisations.

You may also find these numbers useful:

SCoJeC Helpline: 0141 638 6411 (if necessary leave a message and we'll will ring back)

Jewish Care Scotland: 07552 468 580 (Mon–Thurs 9am-5pm; at other times leave a message)

Cosgrove Care: 0141 471 1806 (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat-Sun 10am-3pm)

Other care services: Service users at home should contact their care provider direct.

Jewish Helpline: If you feel anxious, depressed, or just need someone to talk to: 0800 652 9249

Kosher food: Available from all normal sources including supermarkets. If you require prepared meals then take away food is available and can be delivered by:

Mark Deli	0141 638 8947
Gary's Kosher Kitchen	07590 292 418
L'Chaim's Restaurant	0141 638 6116

JAMI: Specialist mental health services in the Jewish Community: 020 8458 2223

Jewish Women's Aid Helplines: Domestic Abuse 0808 801 500; Sexual Violence 0808 801 0656

Synagogues etc: A limited number of shul services are being held in Scotland ([click here for information](#)), although the number of people able to attend is limited. Synagogues will have been in touch with their members, and you should contact them direct for further information – see SCoJeC's [Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland](#) for contact details.

For more local information from your own community, contact:

Aberdeen	07955 706 333	aberdeensynagogue@gmail.com
Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation	07734 291 836	secretary@ehcong.com
Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community	0131 777 8024	contact@eljic.org
Glasgow	0141 577 8200	office@glasgowjewishrepcouncil.org
Tayside and Fife	01333 311 367	taysideandfife@scojec.org
Jewish Students	07791 292 790	scotchaplain@mychaplaincy.co.uk
Israelis in Scotland	–	info@scotil.org

[Click here](#) for information about planned livestream events.

For general advice and guidance:

see www.scojec.org/lockdown.html for comprehensive information about support available in the Scottish and UK Jewish communities.

OR phone us on **0141–638 6411** (except Shabbat and festivals)

send an e-mail to scojec@scojec.org

use the Contact form at: www.scojec.org/contact.html

and someone will respond as soon as possible.

We welcome your questions so that we know what the community's concerns are, and can convey these to Government and others, so please do get in touch with any queries.

Finally, if you would like to speak to us about volunteering or offering any other assistance during this challenging time, please email us at scojec@scojec.org

And most importantly, be well!



NB: This leaflet does not replace any information you have received from the Government, the NHS, or local authorities, and we are not able to offer medical, legal, or financial assistance, although we will do our best to point you in the right direction.

If you feel unwell please follow the current government guidelines, which can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/nhsinform-coronavirus>.