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# Young rabbonim draw on expertise in improving their community work

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Almost 50 rabbis from across Europe have convened in London for the Conference of European Rabbis' Young Rabbis Seminar. The seminar focused on the main issues affecting communities across Europe, including Jewish identity and strategies for supporting victims of abuse within the Jewish community.

Held at Finchley United Synagogue, Rabbi Moshe Lebel, the organisation's rabbinical director, opened the seminar which gathered together young rabbinical talent from across the continent – as far afield as Moldova and Turkey. For the first time, the seminar was scheduled to immediately follow the annual rabbinic conference hosted in London by Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis. As such, the participants were able to join their UK-based colleagues for a variety of lectures, including from the Soviet 'Refusenik' Rabbi Yosef Mendeleovich and Rabbi Dr JJ Schacter of Yeshiva University.

Speaking about the importance of having European colleagues participate, Chief Rabbi Mirvis said: 'It was a pleasure to welcome young rabbis from across Europe to our annual conference. I very much hope that the insights and inspiration

that they have gained here in London will serve them well as they return to their communities for the Yomim Noraim.'

The CER's seminar was split into two parts: the first included a variety of speakers, including Rabbi Reuven Leuchter and Rabbi Shabtai Rappaport, who shared their insights into the relationship between faith and empowerment and the importance of a united Jewish identity and community cohesion. The second half was hosted by the Haruv organisation, a leading Israel organisation specialising in helping children suffering from abuse and neglect. The session focused on increasing awareness of the key issues that surround abuse, as well as suggesting methods of supporting those who are affected by abuse.

Commenting on the event, Gady Gronich, Executive Director, Conference of European Rabbis, said: 'The seminar has been a great success. It is a key priority of the CER to provide the next generation of rabbinical leaders with the right guidance and advice on matters that affect Jewish communities across Europe. More than ever before, we must ensure that our communities are properly supported and seminars like this help to ensure that our rabbis are duly equipped.'



(L-R): Rabbi Moshe Lebel, Dayan Menachem Gelley, Rabbi Reuven Leuchter

