



THE PR OFFICE ^{PRO}

Conference of European Rabbis

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How tikkun olam keeps our community in Mints condition



Boris Mints (Wikipedia/Author: Golkokuz/ Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 4.0 International license. Via Jewish News)

A recent survey by Barclays of 400 multi-millionaires across nine countries found 46 percent think financing good causes is the state's jobs while 29 percent say family and business interests should be prioritised over philanthropy. In the Jewish world, philanthropy undeniably informs our education and values in a way that cannot be overestimated.

The concept of *tikkun olam*, acts of kindness with the aim of healing the world, is something for which the Jewish community is well-regarded the world over as it showcases the value of philanthropy beyond the act of giving.





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Jewish philanthropy is often a means of connecting disparate Diaspora communities and imbuing them with a sense of a community, fellowship and family.

For global Jewry, far from detracting from the greater priority of family commitments, charity serves to heighten our sense of family values in line with the universal Jewish values of community, openness and tolerance.

It is no coincidence that the closest translation of the word 'philanthropy' in Hebrew is *tzedakah*. While this is most commonly used generically to mean charity, it more accurately describes the act of social justice the giver conceives of for those in need of it, which can only be actioned effectively in collaboration.

Social responsibility trumps mere acts of charity because is something that can only be actioned in collaboration with other like-minded individuals, it isn't a nameless faceless that act that can be aimed at someone in isolation.

There are many examples within our community that illustrate how essential collaboration between like-minded organisations and individuals from across the worlds of business, media, politics, and beyond, is in the interests of working towards achieving our common objectives.

One such example is Russian businessman and philanthropist Boris Mints, whose charitable work, under the umbrella of The Mints Family Charitable Foundation, is driven by family values. The foundation is especially committed to supporting non-profit organisations and community projects in the fields of the arts and culture, science, medicine and education, and the development of Jewish communities.





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The common thread between all these philanthropic interests is the idea of uniting people in working towards finding solutions for contemporary global problems facing society, based on the principles of charity, philanthropy, mutual support, tolerance and traditional family values.

As chairman of the Council of Patrons of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER) and vice president of the World Jewish Congress (WJC), Mints is passionate about collaborating with fellow business and political leaders with the expertise and experience to advise and support organisations working to unite Jewish communities, protect their rights to religious practice and expression and advance educational initiatives for Diaspora Jewry.

Mints prioritises education as the most profound philanthropic act and the most powerful tool in the fight against antisemitism and hatred and in support of furthering positive change in the world for the benefit of society. This ethos was behind the establishment of the Boris Mints Institute (BMI) to encourage research, planning and innovative thinking with the aim of promoting new strategies for enhancing the welfare of communities around the world. For many people, the misconception that a lack of resources is the main contribution factor to poverty and inequality in the world, but BMI recognises that in many cases the technologies, treatments and resources to adequately redress imbalance are in fact in place, but ineffective policy means decision-makers aren't able to mobilise them to effect positive change.

BMI creates research grants and scholarships to direct thinking in practical policy-minded vein, in addition to hosting conferences on which the world's eminent researchers and academics in their field can collaborate to advance practical solutions to some of the world's most pressing social





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issues. Among the BMI's initiatives is a \$100,000 prize to an individual who has dedicated their life's work to research in an effort to advance global policy formation and social integration of communities.

According to Boris Mints, the prize is designed not only to reward those seeking to make strides in thinking on an important subject, but also to encourage other researchers to follow suit.

Winners are required to contribute 20 percent of the fund's value towards a scholarship for their chosen academic, allowing him or her to dedicate more time to research that can have global benefits.

The concept of 'paying it forward' might not be wholly new in the world of philanthropy, but it is the convergence of philanthropy, academia and social innovation that makes the initiative so compelling. The winner in 2018, Professor Michael Kremer, a Gates Professor of Developing Societies at Harvard University's Department of Economics, was awarded the prize for his research aimed "at fighting poverty and enhancing the welfare of disadvantaged communities worldwide".

The fact that Professor Kremer went on to be named one of three 2019 Nobel Prize Laureates for Economy only heightens the credibility of the BMI prize.

According to Mints, charity isn't just about supporting the needy, however worthy a goal that is in and of itself. By advancing initiatives that offer continuity between the generations, he believes you can promote the very family values that lie at the heart of our communities and the central importance of charity to society.

Mints's philosophy is that by building dialogue between individuals,





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organisations and cultures, we can better build future prospects for our youth, community, wider society and civilisation, promote our collective social responsibility and the preservation of our common cultural and historical heritage.

And by doing this we create a better future.

THE BLOGS



Gady Gronich

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/how-tikkun-olam-keeps-our-community-in-mints-condition/>



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Lithuania wants to erase its Holocaust role. That's deplorable

Proposed legislation would whitewash the extent to which Lithuanians helped Nazis murder 90% of their country's 220,000 Jews



Aftermath of the Kovno, Lithuania (or Kaunas) 'garage' massacre in June of 1941, perpetrated by pro-German Lithuanians (public domain)

The renowned author George Orwell once said, "The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history."

Last week, the Lithuanian Government began its latest attempt to do just that: rewrite history. While the Jewish world was the obvious victim of attempts to exonerate the country from its role in the systematic attempt





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to eradicate Jews from European society at the beginning of the 1940s, it will also be to the detriment of Lithuanian citizens.

Off the back of two horrific terror attacks in New York and New Jersey perpetrated by three people fuelled by a deep hatred of Jews, a committee of the Lithuanian parliament [proposed a draft bill](#) that seeks to deny any involvement of Lithuanian citizens in the Holocaust. A member of the Lithuanian parliament Arūnas Gumuliauskas argues that the Lithuanian state could not have helped contribute to the deaths of Jews living in the country as the Lithuanians were ‘an enslaved people’ under Nazi occupation. Mr. Gumuliauskas’ attempt to gloss over the crimes carried out by the Baltic state are absurd and dangerous.

Lithuanian novelist Ruta Vanagaite, who was honored by the Conference of European Rabbis for exposing the truth about the nature of her country’s past, has worked tirelessly to reveal Lithuanian complicity in the deportation and murder of more than 90 percent of approximately 220,000 Jews during the Shoah. Ruta’s work drew a sharp backlash — her treatment by the Lithuanian authorities demonstrates their true attitude: propaganda over substance.

Lithuania’s cultural heritage and history was significantly shaped by the traditions and values of its Jewish community. Indeed, the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius was widely referred to as ‘the Jerusalem of Lithuania’ because of its Jewish community’s significant impact on communal life. Denying these facts is a barrier to learning the lessons of the Holocaust, distancing ourselves rather than putting in measures to prevent racism and discrimination.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time a European country has attempted to waive responsibility for its involvement in the extermination of





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thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. In 2018, Poland made it a criminal offence to accuse it of complicity in Nazi war crimes. The absurd law rightly provoked an outcry throughout Europe and across the globe, leading the Poles to downgrade the law's severity from a criminal to a civil offence. Three million Polish Jews were brutally murdered by the Nazis during the occupation of Poland.

Western democracies, such as France and Switzerland, have also struggled with their wartime records and set up historical commissions to deal with the past. These measures are welcomed by the Jewish community and rightly acknowledge a sense that many countries could have done more.

With Holocaust survivors ageing, it is our responsibility to ensure that the lessons of the Holocaust do not die with them. Anti-Semitic acts, now a daily occurrence, pose a real threat to the Jewish communities of Europe. It is the job of governments to ensure that Europe remains open to Jews and that we are able to practice our religion openly across the continent. The kind of revisionism that Lithuania is proposing only alienates the Jewish community, making us feel that we are not welcome and that the plight of our grandparents can be dismissed as someone else's fault.

We can understand why the Lithuanian parliament wants to erase its unpleasant history of Nazi collaboration. However, the country must face up to its history, not seek to ignore or deny it. It is cynical for the government to fund celebrations of the 300th birthday of the Vilna Gaon, a man who encapsulated so much Torah study and then to deny the sad truth that many Talmudical scholars following in his way were murdered by Lithuanians in cold blood during WWII.

The facts are clear: under Nazi occupation, the Provisional Lithuanian Government, Lithuanian paramilitary battalions and local Lithuanian





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populations were complicit in the slaughter of thousands of innocent Jews. By no means should we let a handful of people seek to legislate falsehoods.

Unfortunately, the Lithuanian state has a very difficult history and not much of a democratic past. The best guarantee for a future is to seek the truth. The rewriting of history for political gain can never be tolerated and I urge the Lithuanian parliament to withdraw this bill with immediate effect.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt is the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, a position he has held since 1993. In 2011, he also became president of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER), and is the envoy of the World Jewish Congress to Orthodox Churches.

<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/lithuania-wants-to-erase-its-holocaust-role-thats-deplorable/>





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Lithuania wants to erase its Holocaust role. That's deplorable | Pinchas Goldschmidt

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The renowned author George Orwell once said, "The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history."

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history. While the Jewish world was the obvious victim of attempts to exonerate the country from its role in the systematic attempt to eradicate Jews from European society at the beginning of the 1940s, it will also be to the detriment of Lithuanian citizens.

Off the back of two horrific terror attacks in New York and New Jersey perpetrated by three people fuelled by a deep hatred of Jews, a committee of the Lithuanian parliament proposed a draft bill that seeks to deny any involvement of Lithuanian citizens in the Holocaust. A member of the Lithuanian parliament Arūnas Gumuliauskas argues that the Lithuanian state could not have helped contribute to the deaths of Jews living in the country as the Lithuanians were 'an enslaved people' under Nazi occupation. Mr. Gumuliauskas' attempt to gloss over the crimes carried out by the Baltic state are absurd and dangerous.

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Lithuania's cultural heritage and history was significantly shaped by the traditions and values of its Jewish community. Indeed, the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius was widely referred to as 'the Jerusalem of Lithuania' because of its Jewish community's significant impact on communal life. Denying these facts is a barrier to learning the lessons of the Holocaust, distancing ourselves rather than putting in measures to prevent racism and discrimination.

Unfortunately, this is not the first time a European country has attempted to waive responsibility for its involvement in the extermination of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust. In 2018, Poland made it a criminal offence to accuse it of complicity in Nazi war crimes. The absurd law rightly provoked an outcry throughout Europe and across the globe, leading the Poles to downgrade the law's severity from a criminal to a civil offence. Three million Polish Jews were brutally murdered by the Nazis during the occupation of Poland.

Western democracies, such as France and Switzerland, have also struggled with their wartime records and set up historical commissions to deal with the past. These measures





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We can understand why the Lithuanian parliament wants to erase its unpleasant history of Nazi collaboration. However, the country must face up to its history, not seek to ignore or deny it. It is cynical for the government to fund celebrations of the 300th birthday of the Vilna Gaon, a man who encapsulated so much Torah study and then to deny the sad truth that many Talmudical scholars following in his way were murdered by Lithuanians in cold blood during WWII.

The facts are clear: under Nazi occupation, the Provisional Lithuanian Government, Lithuanian paramilitary battalions and local Lithuanian populations were complicit in the slaughter of thousands of innocent Jews. By no means should we let a handful of people seek to legislate falsehoods.

Unfortunately, the Lithuanian state has a very difficult history and not much of a democratic past. The best guarantee for a future is to seek the truth. The rewriting of history for political gain can never be tolerated and I urge the Lithuanian parliament to withdraw this bill with immediate effect.

Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt is the Chief Rabbi of Moscow, a position he has held since 1993. In 2011, he also became president of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER), and is the envoy of the World Jewish Congress to Orthodox Churches.

<https://usf.news/middle-east/israel/lithuania-wants-to-erase-its-holocaust-role-thats-deplorable-pinchas-goldschmidt/>





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Market Research Tabloid

Lithuania needs to erase its Holocaust position. That is deplorable | Pinchas Goldschmidt

January 16, 2020 5 Min Read

The famous writer George Orwell as soon as stated, "Top-of-the-line method to wreck folks is to disclaim and obliterate their very own working out in their historical past."

Remaining week, the Lithuanian Govt started its newest try to do exactly that: rewrite historical past. Whilst the Jewish international used to be the most obvious sufferer of makes an attempt to exonerate the rustic from its position within the systematic try to get rid of Jews from Ecu society initially of the 1940s, it's going to even be to the detriment of Lithuanian voters.

Off the again of 2 horrific terror assaults in New York and New Jersey perpetrated through 3 folks fuelled through a deep hatred of Jews, a committee of the Lithuanian parliament proposed a draft invoice that seeks to disclaim any involvement of Lithuanian voters within the Holocaust. A member of the Lithuanian parliament Arūnas Gumuliauskas argues that the Lithuanian state may just now not have helped give a contribution to the deaths of Jews residing within the nation because the Lithuanians had been 'an enslaved folks' below Nazi profession. Mr. Gumuliauskas' try to gloss over the crimes performed through the Baltic state are absurd and perilous.

Lithuanian novelist Ruta Vanagaite, who used to be venerated through the Convention of Ecu Rabbis for exposing the reality in regards to the nature of her nation's previous, has labored tirelessly to disclose Lithuanian complicity within the deportation and homicide of greater than 90 p.c of roughly 220,000 Jews all the way through the Shoah. Ruta's paintings drew a pointy backlash — her remedy through the Lithuanian government demonstrates their true perspective: propagandism over substance.

Lithuania's cultural heritage and historical past used to be considerably formed through the traditions and values of its Jewish neighborhood. Certainly, the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius used to be extensively known as 'the Jerusalem of Lithuania' as a result of its Jewish neighborhood's important affect on communal existence. Denying those info is a barrier to studying the teachings of the Holocaust, distancing ourselves somewhat than putting in place measures to stop racism and discrimination.





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Sadly, this isn't the primary time a Ecu nation has tried to waive accountability for its involvement within the extermination of 1000's of Jews all the way through the Holocaust. In 2018, Poland made it a felony offence to accuse it of complicity in Nazi struggle crimes. The absurd legislation rightly provoked an outcry all through Europe and around the globe, main the Poles to downgrade the legislation's severity from a felony to a civil offence. 3 million Polish Jews had been brutally murdered through the Nazis all the way through the profession of Poland.

Western democracies, comparable to France and Switzerland, have additionally struggled with their wartime data and arrange historic commissions to care for the previous. Those measures are welcomed through the Jewish neighborhood and rightly recognize a way that many nations may have achieved extra.

With Holocaust survivors growing older, it's our accountability to make certain that the teachings of the Holocaust don't die with them. Anti-Semitic acts, now a day by day occurrence, pose an actual risk to the Jewish communities of Europe. It's the task of governments to make certain that Europe stays open to Jews and that we're ready to observe our faith brazenly around the continent. The type of revisionism that Lithuania is proposing simplest alienates the Jewish neighborhood, making us really feel that we don't seem to be welcome and that the plight of our grandparents may also be brushed aside as any person else's fault.

We will perceive why the Lithuanian parliament needs to erase its ugly historical past of Nazi collaboration. Then again, the rustic will have to withstand its historical past, now not search to forget about or deny it. It's cynical for the federal government to fund celebrations of the 300th birthday of the Vilna Gaon, a person who encapsulated such a lot Torah learn about after which to disclaim the sorrowful reality that many Talmudical students following in his means had been murdered through Lithuanians in chilly blood all the way through WWII.

The info are transparent: below Nazi profession, the Provisional Lithuanian Govt, Lithuanian paramilitary battalions and native Lithuanian populations had been complicit within the slaughter of 1000's of blameless Jews. Under no circumstances will have to we let a handful of folks search to legislate falsehoods.

Sadly, the Lithuanian state has an overly tough historical past and now not a lot of a democratic previous. The most efficient ensure for a long run is to hunt the reality. The rewriting of historical past for political acquire can by no means be tolerated and I beg the Lithuanian parliament to withdraw this invoice with quick impact.

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<https://marketresearchtabloid.com/2020/01/16/lithuania-needs-to-erase-its-holocaust-position-that-is-deplorable-pinchas-goldschmidt/>

