



THE PR OFFICE ^[PRO]

Conference of European Rabbis

Coverage update

15th May 2020





Publication: Arutz Sheva (online)
Date: 08.05.2020
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Amsterdam: Jewish community in great distress

Dutch authorities refusing to allow Jewish community to aid elderly coronavirus victims, Amsterdam rabbis say.

Contact Editor Yoni Kempinski , 08/05/20 15:49



Nursing home

iStock

Amsterdam Rabbi Eliezer Wolff and former Amsterdam Chief Rabbi Aryeh Ralbag spoke about how Holland's healthcare system is failing





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to treat elderly coronavirus patients.

In a Zoom conference with the Conference of European Rabbis (CER), the two described the health authorities' attitude towards coronavirus patients over 60 years of age.

"They don't provide medical aid, certainly not ventilators, and to our great sorrow we have again seen actual opposition, even in the Jewish nursing home. They don't evacuate patients who require hospitalization, and since we were called in to help, unfortunately, we have lost another four elderly. They also speed up their deaths, by giving them high doses of morphine," the two said.

Dutch authorities rejected the CER's offer to pay to hire a special doctor and purchase ventilators for the Jewish community.

"It's extremely saddening to hear that specifically a country considered to be 'progressive' is insensitive to the value of life and even determinedly refuses any aid offered by others, Moscow's rabbi and CER President Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt said.

The rabbis have decided to speak to the leaders of the community and the nursing home, expressing their sharp protest, and to declare that they will use any means available to them, if they are not allowed to aid the elderly patients.

Later in the meeting, Rabbi Ralbag discussed the CER's court in Amsterdam for women whose husbands refused to grant them a divorce, and the unprecedented ruling of the Dutch court: to arrest one of the divorce-refusing husbands for six months, due to his refusal to appear in the Jewish court.

"Even though he is not a resident of Holland, the court issued an arrest warrant for him, allowing any country which is a member of the European Union to enforce it," he said.

<https://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/279913>





Publication: Yeshiva World (online)
Date: 12.05.2020
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SHOCKING: Dutch Rabbis Say Healthcare System Lets Elderly COVID-19 Patients Die

May 12, 2020 6:00 pm

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Conference of European Rabbis





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Date: 12.05.2020

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In a Zoom meeting of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER) last week during which they discussed issues in their communities related to the coronavirus pandemic, Dutch rabbanim described the shocking behavior of their healthcare system towards coronavirus patients over 60, Arutz Sheva reported.

The head of the Amsterdam Beis Din, Rav Eliezer Wolff, and former Chief Rabbi of Amsterdam, Rav Aryeh Rabbag, said at the meeting: “[The Dutch healthcare system] doesn’t provide medical aid, certainly not ventilators, and to our great sorrow we have seen actual opposition, even in the Jewish nursing home. They don’t evacuate patients who require hospitalization, and since we were called in to help, unfortunately, we have lost another four elderly residents. They also speed up their deaths, by giving them high doses of morphine.”

The CER rabbanim offered the Dutch authorities to pay the expenses for a special doctor for the Jewish community as well as ventilators but their offer was refused.

“It’s extremely saddening to hear that specifically a country **considered to be ‘progressive’** is insensitive to the value of life and even determinedly refuses any aid offered by others,” Rav Pinchas Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow and president of the CER, said.





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There are currently 42,788 confirmed cases of the coronavirus in the Netherlands and 5,456 fatalities. A total of 26 fatalities were from **Beth Shalom, a Jewish nursing home** in Amsterdam with 120 residents.

There are about 40,000 Jews in the Netherlands, a country with 17 million people.

(YWN Israel Desk – Jerusalem)

<https://www.theyeshivaworld.com/news/headlines-breaking-stories/1859833/shocking-dutch-rabbis-say-healthcare-system-lets-elderly-covid-19-patients-die.html>





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Date: 14.05.2020

News



EUROPEAN RABBIS DISCUSS VIRUS AND AFTERMATH

Dozens of Europe's leading rabbis have discussed the practical steps they can take in helping congregations return to synagogues as the coronavirus lockdown began to ease in several countries. The Conference of European Rabbis also considered the economic impact of the pandemic.





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NEW JEWISH News

European rabbis discuss steps to help congregations return from lockdown

Zoom meeting with Conference of European Rabbis urged to 'support communities back into synagogues'

By **JEWISH NEWS REPORTER**

May 14, 2020, 4:12 pm |





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Date: 14.05.2020

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NJEWISH News

Dozens of Europe's leading rabbis have discussed the practical steps they can take in helping congregations return to synagogues across the continent as the coronavirus lockdown began to ease in several countries.

It follows a virtual meeting of the governing body of the Conference of European Rabbis (CER) which was urged to "support communities back into synagogues".

The rabbis also discussed how best to engage new congregants participating for the first time during lockdown. There has been increased attendance across the board in online classes, events and services, with several congregations reporting up to 100 times the normal attendance.

CER president Rabbi Pinchas Goldschmidt said one of the major challenges facing communities was to keep engagement high when activity moves back to synagogue.

"The fundamental question revolved around how Jewish communities in Europe can adapt to a new world post-lockdown," he said. "We have already seen several states begin to lift restrictions on the goings-on of daily lives."

Other agenda items included the economic impact of the pandemic on religious communities and the "potential creation of a fund to support families" later this year.

<https://jewishnews.timesofisrael.com/european-rabbis-discuss-steps-to-help-congregations-return-from-lockdown/>

