



## EUPJ Report to WUPJ IA December 2019

The European Union for Progressive Judaism (EUPJ) is the umbrella organisation linking more than 170 communities in 17 countries as well as rabbinic and other progressive institutions connected to our movement.

I am happy to refer all our friends who are interested in specific aspects of our work to our latest 30-page annual report [link], published in May 2019 and providing detailed information on all our activities as well as ongoing and upcoming projects.

While the EUPJ continues to be based in the United Kingdom, a particularly successful part of our work in the last year took place in our new Brussels office, which serves as the base of our political representation to the European Union and significant progress is visible. Achievements include:

1. EU Grant: A EUR 90,000 award will be spent over the following two years. The grant is for research on anti-Semitism in Europe. Just as important as the money is the fact that we won with a consortium consisting of other mainstream Jewish groups. We are now an accepted part of the EU landscape.
2. Holocaust Remembrance Report: In January, 2019, to commemorate the UN's Holocaust Remembrance Day, we published a report (<https://www.holocaustremembranceproject.com>) on the state of Holocaust Remembrance in Europe. The launch event took place in the EU neighborhood in Brussels and received widespread press coverage.
3. HIAS Brussels Launch: We worked with the Washington-based Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society to launch their Brussels office in September, 2019 (<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/hias-happy-new-year-and-welcome-to-brussels/>). HIAS represents a natural partner for Progressive Judaism and we plan to work closely with its new Brussels director Ilan Cohn.
4. Arthur Langermann Collection: We worked with the European Commission to find a permanent home for this collection of 7000 artefacts detailing anti-Semitic images from the Middle Ages to the present. A home was found in Berlin at the German Institute for the Study of anti-Semitism. (<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2017/mar/27/holocaust-survivor-antisemitic-art-arthur-langerman>)



5. Opinion Outreach: We now have our own column in the Israel Times, which can be used at will to publicize our activities and opinions. (<https://blogs.timesofisrael.com/author/william-echikson/>).

We are very happy to support the growth and development of new communities in Europe and have just admitted the young congregation Bnei Sefarad in Valencia/Spain with associate member status.

The EUPJ continues to support new congregational initiatives in a number of countries, in order to serve progressive Jews wishing to connect to the movement but also in the interest of exploring potential new community structures which may be better suited to reflect the needs and desires of the younger generations.

As often as possible we now hold Executive Board meetings as open meetings with the aim of sharing information of our work more widely and inviting active contributions from our members.

Our congregations are still fighting for political recognition in some countries and we are supporting these efforts to the best of our abilities. Most recently progress has been made in Hungary as a result of a new strategic approach.

We are entering the final phase of preparation for our next biennial conference, to take place in Geneva from 30 April to 3 May, 2020. This will be the first time an EUPJ conference is held in Switzerland. The programme promises to be most interesting with a great line-up of speakers.

Thanks to generous private donors, we are hoping to support the attendance of a record number of young leaders of our movement and we very cordially invite our friends from all over the world to join us in Geneva. All information can be found on our website [www.eupj.org](http://www.eupj.org) with regular updates.

Sonja Guentner, Chair EUPJ  
December 2019