



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
World Zionist Organization

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יו"ר ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית

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With great sorrow and grief, The World Zionist Organization and The Jewish Agency for Israel received the difficult news of the passing of our friend and loved one, the man who contributed greatly to strengthening the unity of the Jewish people.

Rabbi Richard (Dick) Hirsch, an exemplary leader, knew how to navigate the growth and development of the Zionist Movement and of the Jewish people with wisdom and sensitivity.

“All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place where the rivers flow, there they repeatedly go.” (Kohelet, 1:7)

In endless meetings, world-wide discussions and even brief corridor conversations, Dick looked intently for the broad common denominator from which the Jewish people can grow.

As one of the founders of the Reform Movement in Israel and the Honorary President of the World Association for Progressive Judaism, as Chairman of the Presidency of the Zionist General Council and as an honorary member of the Board of Governors of The Jewish Agency, he left his indelible mark and a deep, long trail of extensive public action.

In 2016 in a special meeting held in his honor under the title "My Life and My Beliefs," Rabbi Hirsch opened with a quote from the Tractate Avot: "Someone respectable is one who respects human beings." And in simplicity and humility he explained to those present that this is such a beautiful tradition of the Jewish people that has been passed down from generation to generation - to respect others in order to feel and be self-respecting.

On behalf of The World Zionist Organization, on behalf of The Jewish Agency for Israel and on behalf of the tens of thousands of members who took part in the various activities alongside the late Rabbi Dick Hirsch, I would like to express our condolences to his family.

May his soul be bundled in the bundle of life,

Yaakov Hagoel  
Chairman of the World Zionist Organization  
Acting Chairman of the Jewish Agency