



הרבנים דטאר אנטא  
**VAAD HARABONIM OF TORONTO**



בעוהש"ח

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בס"ד

July 26, 2013

ט"ז מנ"א תשע"ג

To Whom It May Concern:

In your dealing with people, you might have come across the challenge & sensitive issue of trying to ascertain the Jewish identity of someone who wants to join the community, school, become members in a shul, or to partake in an activity that might lead others to believe that they are Jewish, particularly when they are looking to make a bris, baby naming, bar or bas mitzvah, wedding or funeral or buying a cemetery plot. In addition, you might have been asked to provide a letter attesting to their being Jewish or single.

For Jews from the Former Soviet Union (FSU), it is particularly difficult to prove their Jewish identity, considering the challenges they endured during the first and second world wars and the abuse they endured under a communist regime, that ripped many away from their Jewish roots and communities, and forced some to assume non-Jewish identities for the sake of survival.


Now however, when wanting to rejoin the Jewish community, there is a very serious challenge, how could one be certain that this individual is in fact a Jew?

The above issue also applies to those who have become ba'alei teshuvah. Many times they were unaware that they are not Jewish according to halacha. Religious ceremonies for people, who might even have been living a religious Jewish life, may have been conducted by Orthodox Rabbis who discovered afterwards that the individual's Jewishness is in question.

Due to their dedication and diligent investigative work for many years now, the JRCC of Ontario and particularly Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman has established himself as an expert in this area of authenticating or finding the discrepancies in claims of Jewish lineage, for people from the FSU.

Considering the availability of such a service, we feel that it is a must for all who come in contact with people from Russian descent, to refer them to the JRCC, to ascertain their Jewishness and if you have information about a family from Russian descent, whether it is that they are Jewish or that they are not, please do notify the JRCC about it, so they can keep their records updated, which will help future generations with their lineage.

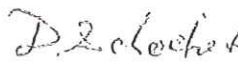
With best wishes,  
 Sincerely,

  
 Rabbi Amram Asayag

  
 Rabbi Yehoshua Fuhrer

  
 Rabbi Moshe Lowy

  
 Rabbi Mordechai Ochs

  
 Rabbi Dovid Schochet

P.S.

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