



LIETUVOS
RESPUBLIKOS
VYRIAUSYBE

LETTER OF GREETINGS

My sincere greetings to The Association of Lithuanian Jews in Israel, celebrating its 90th anniversary. Nine decades of your organisation's activity have been marked with meaningful deeds for Lithuania, for the actualization of the history of Lithuania and for the close cooperation between Lithuania and Israel.

Fate has brought you and your families to Israel, but I would like to believe that you will never forget Lithuania, the land of your ancestors. Lithuanian Jews have significantly contributed to the creation of Lithuanian statehood throughout our history. We tend to remember this, but we must admit that there is still a lot to be re-discovered about those who lived next door to us, what kind of people they were, and what their contribution to Lithuania's cultural, political, or economic life was. 700 years of rich history, hundreds or even thousands of famous personalities.

Lithuania can be duly called the unpolished gem of Europe's Jewish cultural heritage. This gem has been created by generations of Jews living in Lithuania. You and your loved ones have also created this gem.

It is said that one of the predominant features of Litvaks is stubbornness. Indeed, it takes a lot of stubbornness to survive all the terrible storms of history. I believe you will not lose this stubbornness and you will continue being an important example to others that humanity prevails in the end.

Thank you for your contribution to Lithuania's future and I wish you decades of prosperity!

Ingrida Šimonytė
Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania

9 November 2022

