



The State of Israel
Ministry of Higher and Complementary Education

Emanuelis Zingeris, MP

Signatory

Act the Re-Establishment of the State of Lithuania

Chairman

Group for Inter-Parliamentary Relations with the State of Israel

Chairman

Subcommittee on Transatlantic Relations and Democratic Development

Chairman

International Commission for the Evaluation of the Nazi and Soviet Occupation
Regimes in Lithuania

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to congratulate Lithuanian people with 30 years of the restoration of the Independence of the Lithuanian Republic. Your Nation became an important and valuable member of international community.

Your Parliament has designated 2020 as the Year of the Vilnius Gaon and the History of the Jews of Lithuania. We appreciate that very much.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude from the State of Israel to those who are commemorating the day of Holocaust of Lithuanian Jews with historical responsibility today. Your national flags are raised with black ribbons in all Lithuania today.

About 40 percent of inhabitant of your capital city Vilnius were Jews and they were murdered by Nazis and their local collaborators. So, about 94 percent of Lithuanian Jews were killed during the Second World war.

September 23rd 1943 is the last day of the existence of Vilna Ghetto. The rest of the residents of the Ghetto were sent to Ponary and killed. We know that these people had built your country together with others during the last 600 years.

I trust that your modern civil society will include the memory of your former neighbors to the current civic and political consciousness. We hope that people who were collaborators with Nazis will never ever be heroes even for the small part of Lithuanian society. The State of Israel hopes you will never have to tolerate that.

I would like to share with appreciation for the work of your chaired International Commission the evaluation of the painful history of Lithuania and your mature top-standart studies done together with the Yad Vashem, American, German and



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Lithuanian scholars. I appreciate so much that you brought more like 300 Lithuanian teachers to the Yad Vashem for summer sessions with our scholars. The Yad Vashem will enlarge the cooperation programs with Lithuania.

We know that hundreds of teachers will be assembled in Vilnius and in other cities of Lithuania today. Thank you! Ačiū! I encourage your academic and civic society ties with Israeli institutions and museums. I hope that COVID-19 will not be dividing our cooperation in the fields of history and education. I know that Ministers of Culture and Education of Lithuania staying next to you now. The Government of Israel will offer even more stronger ties between your and our governments in these fields.

We also know very well the positive activity of Jewish museum in Vilnius.

With deepest respect to all goodwill people who are gathering with you.

Respectfully yours,

Zeev Elkin, MK

Minister of Higher Education and Water Resources
Member Political-Security Cabinet