

RESOLUTION

OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

“HOW TO COMMEMORATE THE GREAT SYNAGOGUE OF VILNA SITE?”,

organised by non profit entity “Jerusalem of the North” (www.litvakworld.com)

September 4-5, 2017

Vilnius

The organizers, the speakers and the participants of the Conference,

emphasizing the special significance of Vilnius, capital of Lithuania, for the history of the world Jewish community and the European cultural heritage,

taking into account the inscription of the Historical Center of Vilnius on the World heritage list of UNESCO in 1994 on the grounds of its Outstanding Universal Value, which, among other aspects, testifies how “together with the Lithuanians, other nations of Grand Duchy of Lithuania with their languages, religions and cultures, shaped the development of Vilnius as an outstanding, multicultural city, in which the influences of the West and the East were merged”,

also taking into account

- the recommendations of the “Resolution of the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania on the Restoration of the Characteristic Elements of the Historical Ghetto in Vilnius” adopted by the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on September the 19th of the year 2000 and
- the “Declaration on the cultural heritage of the Jews of Lithuania”, October 18, 2000, based on “Resolution of the International Workshop on Methodological Directions for Reconstruction of Representative Elements of the Historic Jewish Ghetto in the Old Town of Vilnius”, July 19, 2000,
- the “Program on the Restoration of the Representative Elements of the Historic Ghetto in Vilnius”, 2001,

inspired by “Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions” of UNESCO ratified by the European Union in 2006, which, among other important things, “Celebrates the importance of cultural diversity for the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized instruments”,

commending the efforts undertaken by the Government of Lithuania and the Municipality of Vilnius to restore and to memorialize the Jewish cultural heritage destroyed by the Nazis during the Holocaust and by the Soviets during the period of the Soviet occupation of Lithuania,

noting with grave concern the inappropriate state of the present-day commemoration of the site of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius,

bearing on the knowledge provided by this conference,

1. *Initiates* the creation of the International Commission for Memorialization of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius, comprised of Lithuanian and international experts, politicians, community activists, etc. entitled to discuss and suggest the most appropriate solution for the form and

content of memorialization of the Great Synagogue of Vilnius and its sites, based on educational and cultural purposes for the benefits of the local and international societies.

2. *Encourages* the Government of the Republic of Lithuania and the Municipality of Vilnius to grant the full access for researchers and archeologists to the full territory of the Vilnius Great Synagogue removing the existing typical Soviet building of the kindergarten.

Signed on September 8, 2017

by