

CENTRAL BOARD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GREECE

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To the
Director General of UNESCO
Mrs Irina Bokova
Via E-mail (dg@unesco.org)

Athens, October 14, 2016

Honorable General Director Bokova,

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece and all the Greek Jews strongly protest and express their repugnance and sorrow for the latest UNESCO decision that ignores the historical bonds of the Jews with the Western Wall on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, as well as the bonds of the Christians with the Holy sites. This decision is an insult to the Jewish people and the Jews all over the world to whom this site represents a sacred religious birthplace.

The Western Wall, also called the Wailing Wall, is the only remaining part of the Temple of Solomon, which was destroyed for the first time in 586 BC by the Babylonians and for the second time in 70 AD by the Romans. It symbolizes the cradle of the Jewish faith and its undoubted connection with its identity and historic course. Since then the Jews all over the world we pray with our heads facing towards Jerusalem. This will never change regardless of your Organization's shameful decision. History cannot be either distorted or manufactured.

The new decision of the Executive Board of UNESCO reveals the manipulated political expediencies that encourage intolerance and anti-Semitism and diverge all efforts for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

UNESCO should protect the city of Jerusalem as a holy place for Jews, Christians and Muslims alike, instead of giving in to political pressure exercised by countries that aim at turning the Holy city from a place of affection and reconciliation to a place of hatred and bloodshed.

The Central Board of Jewish Communities in Greece asks for the revocation of this shameful decision that distorts world history.

Sincerely Yours,

The President



David Saltiel

The Secretary General



Moses Elisaf

- **C.C.:** President of the Greek National Committee to UNESCO Mrs. Ekaterini Tzitzikosta.