

Federal Minister Dr. Claudia Schmied
BMUKK- Federal Ministry for Education,
Arts and Culture
Minoritenplatz 5
1014 Vienna
Austria

Date

Regarding: Recognition of a Jewish Liberal "Kultusgemeinde"

Dear Minister Dr. Schmied,

I would like to write to you in support of our community in Vienna, the Progressive Jewish congregation Or Chadasch, and their application for recognition as a Kultusgemeinde under public charter.

The new Israelitengesetz, as passed in the Nationalrat on April 19, discriminates against Progressive Judaism, the largest Jewish denomination worldwide.

As you are surely aware an application for a Jewish Liberal Kultusgemeinde under the Israelitengesetz of 1890 was submitted to the Kultusamt in March. Since the newly passed Israelitengesetz takes away the right to apply for a Kultusgemeinde with the Ministry, I strongly urge you to approve the application under the current law.

I express my hope that Progressive Judaism as an authoritative and authentic interpretation of the Jewish religion will receive the same legal status as orthodox forms of Judaism.

Yours sincerely,