



This report relates to the current year (2021). The Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 are presented separately as part of the AGM business.

The summary below shows the Management Accounts as at 15th June 2021.

**Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
 Financial Summary for 2021**

	Restricted Funds						Unrestricted Funds			2020	TOTAL
	SG Equalities	Peoples Lottery	Other Funds	Emergency Funding	Photography Project	Pilgrimage Project	General Funds	Events	Education		
Opening Balance at 1 January 2020	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,815.94	£3,575.00	£8,409.45	£0.00	£0.00	£18,800.39	
INCOME											
Affiliations							3,100.00			£3,100.00	
Equalities Grant	£25,000.00									£25,000.00	
General Donations							224.37	1,844.75		£2,069.12	
Clarkston Trust								£0.00		£0.00	
Community Trust			-				£0.00			£0.00	
CST Funding			-							£0.00	
Education										£0.00	
Peoples Lottery		-								£0.00	
Photography Project										£0.00	
Emergency Funding				-						£0.00	
TOTAL	£25,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,324.37	£1,844.75	£0.00	£30,169.12	
EXPENDITURE											
Charitable											
Staff	£9,866.33	£0.00	-	-	-	-	£3,510.96			£13,377.29	
Sessional Staff	£5,443.68	£369.75	-	-	-	-	£2,281.39			£8,094.82	
Office & Telephone	£679.36	£0.00	-	-	-	-	£119.00			£798.36	
Volunteer Expenses	£0.00	£0.00	-	-	-	-	£0.00			£0.00	
Advert, Print & Stationery	£593.00	£0.00	-	-	-	-	£0.00			£593.00	
Travel	£0.00	£0.00	-	-	-	-	£0.00			£0.00	
Hospitality & Events	£946.00	£0.00	274.99	-	-	-	£1,628.00			£2,848.99	
Subs, Affiliations & Licences	£0.00	£0.00	-	-	-	-	£100.00			£100.00	
Professional Fees	£100.00	£0.00	100.00	-	-	-	£100.00			£300.00	
Sundry Expenses	£0.00	£0.00	-	-	-	-	£0.00			£0.00	
Subtotal	£17,628.37	£369.75	£374.99	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,739.35	£0.00	£0.00	£26,112.46	
Governance & Admin											
Staff	£2,555.03									£2,555.03	
Sessional Staff	£1,114.76									£1,114.76	
Office & Telephone	£200.29									£200.29	
Volunteer Expenses	£0.00									£0.00	
Advert, Print & Stationery	£0.00									£0.00	
Travel	£0.00									£0.00	
Hospitality & Events	£0.00									£0.00	
Subs, Affiliations & Licences	£0.00									£0.00	
Professional Fees	£100.00									£100.00	
Sundry Expenses	£0.00									£0.00	
Subtotal	£3,970.08	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,970.08	
TOTAL	£21,598.45	£369.75	£374.99	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£7,739.35	£0.00	£0.00	£30,082.54	
Surplus/Deficit to date	£3,401.55	£-369.75	£-374.99	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£-4,414.98	£1,844.75	£0.00	£86.58	
Closing Balance	£3,401.55	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£6,815.94	£3,575.00	£11,733.82	£1,844.75	£0.00	£18,886.97	

Funding

Funding under the Scottish Government's "Promoting Cohesion & Equality Fund" (PECF) has been extended twice because of the pandemic and now will run to 30 September 2021. We were advised that it was to be replaced with a new fund entitled "Equality and Human Rights" and applications for have been invited and we have applied. The fund is described as:

“The Equality and Human Rights Fund offers core and / or project funding to support third sector and public bodies and organisations in Scotland to deliver against equality and human rights priorities. The fund will cover work supporting age, sex, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, disability and race”.

Based on this information we applied for funding for the production of MEMO and MEMO+ which are widely read across the ethnic minority communities. The application is for almost £125,00 over 3 years.

We were advised that:

“A further strand of funding with a focus on community cohesion and inclusion is in the course of being developed. It will replace elements of funding criteria that were in the PECF, but that are not included in the new EHR fund (including faith and belief projects; hate crime projects; and projects focused on support for refugees and people seeking asylum). More information on those funding arrangements will be made available after the election in May”.

We are still awaiting the announcement of this further strand of funding. Depending on its priorities we may require to change the emphasis of our other work. However, until we receive details of the application process we will not know. The delay in the grant application process is extremely disappointing as it means we will probably not know the outcome of any application until September at the earliest, weeks or maybe days, before the current grant ends.

We are continuing negotiations with the funder for a grant of over £50k to develop the delivery of hybrid events as we move back to more normal circumstances. We hope this can start in the next month or so.

We are very grateful to the communal trusts and other organisations which support our work (as set out in the 2020 Annual Report and Accounts). We are also grateful to those individuals who support our work through donations, including those who make donations when they attend our events. We have found that holding free events with the opportunity for attendees to donate works well for us. We continue to identify and apply for other small grants as appropriate.

Looking to the future a key issue we face is the funding of the proposed new Chief Executive's post. At present we are not in a position to make any appointment as we have not secured funding. Whilst we have promises these are not based on any formal agreements under which we can be sure that we will receive set amounts by set dates. We cannot make a formal job offer until this situation is resolved.

Philip Mendelsohn

Treasurer

17th June 2021



Director's Report

AGM, June 2021

It goes without saying that the past year has been dominated by the effects of the Covid pandemic, which has affected every part of our work. One of the fixed points of my diary for over a year now has been a weekly virtual meeting with Scottish Government civil servants to discuss the effects of the ever-changing legislation, regulations, and guidance on faith communities, and in particular places of worship. For the first few months, we also held fortnightly Zoom meetings with the individual communities to hear their concerns and pass on any new information, and I still circulate frequent updates on changes to the guidance, as well as trying to answer ever more Talmudical queries from communities about what might or might not be permitted.

The other main preoccupation on the political front has been the passage of the Hate Crime and Public Order (Scotland) Bill through all its stages in Parliament – something in which we have an obvious interest and on which we have repeatedly made representations, primarily urging a level playing field for all forms of hate crime directed against all protected groups. We also continued to hold our regular meetings with the CST, the Scottish Government, Police Scotland, and Crown Office to discuss antisemitism and hate crime in Scotland. These meetings have been publicly commended by Mark Gardner, the new Chief Executive of the CST, as contributing to a better understanding by the Scottish authorities of how our community is affected. The existence of these channels is particularly important at a time when unfortunately there have been record numbers of antisemitic incidents and therefore unprecedented levels of unease and insecurity in the Jewish Community. Following the First Minister's statement about the recent conflict in Israel and Gaza, we made our view clear to her and others that while there may be room for disagreement about the situation in the Middle East, that framing it in religious terms risks importing the conflict into Scotland, and reminded her of her own words that it never be justification for antisemitism or any racial or religious hatred here. I am pleased to report that she has agreed to address a public meeting with the Community when we will be able to put our views to her.

Our contacts with the Scottish Government have also included consultations around the implementation of the new organ donor regime, changes to the Protecting Vulnerable Groups ("Disclosure") system, family law, (marriage, divorce, and the introduction of mixed-sex civil partnerships), and the Scottish census. The wording of the postponed 2021 census has already been approved by Parliament, and we achieved a significant success in having a prompt for "Jewish" added to the Ethnicity as well as the Religion question, which will help give us a better picture of the community we represent and serve.

Interactions with politicians and others have obviously been curtailed as we are unable just to happen to meet in the Garden Lobby, and that has been particularly unfortunate as so many of our old contacts retired at the recent election and we have had no opportunity to meet their successors. We did produce an updated Manifesto for the Scottish election, jointly with the Glasgow Rep Council, the Board of Deputies, and the JLC, and hard copies have now been mailed to all new MSPs, but they are a poor substitute for face-to-face conversations, particularly at a time when it is so important to convey to politicians of all parties the unprecedented sense of vulnerability in the Community. Unfortunately this will be

made more difficult, at least in the short term, by the resignation of Danielle Bett as JLC Scottish Public Affairs Manager, since she has led on much of this work, and I would like to take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation of her extremely valuable guidance on matters of policy and strategy for the past three and a half years. It has been a pleasure to work with her and I am delighted that she will continue to be involved as the representative of Israelis in Scotland (SICA).

SCoJeC of course does not only represent the Jewish Community, but it also seeks to connect and support Jewish people in Scotland. Our normal outreach and educational activities have obviously been severely affected by the pandemic and especially the constraints imposed first by complete lockdown, and then during the successive levels of relaxation. Nonetheless we have continued to run a programme of virtual concerts, talks, panels, art clubs, discussions, etc, as well as making our Zoom account available to a wide range of communal organisations for their own meetings and events, and that in turn has enabled us to assemble a consortium of organisations that are interested in participating in our new externally funded hybrid events project.

Unfortunately during this time we also suffered significant turn-over amongst our team of consultants, but fortunately we were able to overcome this and continue delivering our activities seamlessly. In anticipation of Fiona Frank's planned retirement we were lucky to recruit Ruby Katz to take over as Projects and Outreach Manager, with Geanina Beres continuing with marketing and media; then when unfortunately both of these resigned for personal and career reasons, we were fortunate that Kirsty Robson and Melissa Eisenberg who had worked for us previously, were able and willing to step in. Fiona has also agreed to return to oversee the hybrid events project, and Joanne Gabbay continues as our Education Worker, overseeing the production of on-line resources such as the "Five-Minute Judaism" videos, which will be useful especially in remote areas even when our Volunteer Education Ambassadors are again able to visit schools in person. And last but not least, as ever my most fulsome thanks to Leah, who has been justifiably described as our organisational memory and is in many ways our most valuable resource. If SCoJeC is the one stop shop on behalf of the Jewish Community, Leah is the one stop shop on behalf of SCoJeC!

My thanks to all of those named, and to other members of the Executive and Council who have assisted with specific tasks and projects. I must single out Philip Mendelsohn and Nicola Livingston, especially for their input into our application to the next Scottish Government funding round, for which the goalposts have been very significantly moved, so that there is even less guarantee than usual that we will succeed. In particular this new fund is to support all the equality characteristics except religion, and no announcement has yet been made about what will fill that gap, which means that our future viability is more than usually uncertain.

Finally, I must put on record that although, as I have repeatedly made clear, I share the aspiration of appointing a paid CEO, I remain seriously concerned both about the process by which the current proposals have been advanced without full consultation even with other Trustees, and about the risk to our financial viability and the political autonomy that is essential to our role as representing Jewish people in Scotland. That said, I wish every success to those who will carry that flag in the future.

Ephraim Borowski

June 2021



Political and other monitoring

- I monitor the activities of a large number of organisations on a daily basis, including the Scottish, UK, Welsh, and Northern Ireland Parliaments and Governments, the European Parliament, the United Nations, and a very large number of statutory and non-statutory organisations. Relevant information is then circulated to an extensive mailing list by means of *Political Affairs Digest*, *MEMO*, which is funded primarily by our Scottish Government grant, and daily briefing e-mails. This enables communal organisations (and, re *MEMO*, other minority communities) to be aware of and respond to political and policy issues as soon as they arise, and also alerts MSPs, MPs, and others to issues of interest to the Jewish community.

Consultation Responses

- Following consultation with all branches of the community, and relevant communal organisations, I prepare consultation responses on matters of relevance to the Jewish community in Scotland to ensure that the range of views across the community are heard at policy level in the Scottish Parliament and Government, and other relevant bodies. The main topic for most of the past year has been the various stages of the Hate Crime and Public Order Bill as it passed through its various stages in Parliament. In addition I attended online meetings with civil servants, and responded to enquiries about changes to the PVG (safeguarding) system, civil partnerships and other family law matters, organ transplantation, and NHS mortuary standards.

Publications

- I design and regularly update SCoJeC's website which received well over 2,000,000 hits during 2020. I also manage and regularly update SCoJeC's facebook, twitter, and youtube accounts.
- Since the start of the pandemic, the website has included a very popular mini-site to provide information about matters relating to the covid-19 pandemic, including communal and national reassurance, information about welfare and social support, and details of online communal activities. To date, the mini-site has received nearly 90,000 hits.
- SCoJeC collaborated with GJRC, the BoD, and the JLC to produce a Jewish Community manifesto for the Scottish Parliament elections. I designed and produced an interactive web version of the manifesto, which, to date, has received nearly 36,000 hits (as compared with only 66 hits on the pdf version.)
- I produce 4-5 issues of *Political Affairs Digest* each week, and a weekly issue of *MEMO*. These publications are very popular – each new issue of *MEMO* is downloaded around 450 times and each issue of *PAD* around 500 times immediately after publication. (During the recent fighting in Gaza, each new issue of *PAD* was downloaded around 2,300 times immediately after publication. This would seem to indicate a substantial number of people who, while they don't feel the need to read *PAD* every day, know about it, and regard it as a reliable, comprehensive, and up-to-date source of information about Scottish, UK, European, and UN political activity, so turn to SCoJeC at times such as these.) Back issues of *MEMO* and *PAD* are used as

an accessible archive; there are around 9,000 hits on MEMO, and 20,000 on PAD every month. *MEMO* is also circulated by Bemis to their extensive mailing list.

- I contribute to the writing, editing, and design of SCoJeC's quarterly newsletter *Four Corners*.
- I regularly update the *Guide to Jewish Facilities in Scotland*. Since first publication in 2007, this has consistently been the most popular single item on the SCoJeC website. During 2020 it was downloaded more than 8,000 times each month, and in the first half of 2021 more than 10,000 times each month – a more than 100% increase on 2019 figures, indicating that people have turned to the *Guide* during the pandemic in order to find out about welfare and other communal services, and obtain contact details for communal organisations.
- I assist with the production of briefings and other materials on a range of subjects relevant to the community.

Services to the Community

- I liaise with the Procurator Fiscal Service, Registrars, and Pathologists, to avoid delays to burial that might otherwise be caused either by post-mortem examinations, or by the system of reviews to death certification procedures.
- I administer SCoJeC's registration with UK Visas and Immigration as a sponsor to enable communal organisations to comply with the Points-Based Immigration System that regulates the employment (including voluntary work) of people from overseas – now also including people from European Union countries – and provide information and assistance to assist communal organisations as required.
- I liaise with National Records of Scotland to facilitate compliance with the relevant regulations when a couple wishes to be married by a Rabbi from outwith Scotland.

Other Activities

- During 2020 I responded to an average of 75 miscellaneous enquiries each week. These come from public bodies, the media, NGOs, the general public, and others, and concern a wide range of issues relating to the Scottish Jewish community. This is a substantial increase on 2019, and many of these additional enquiries have come from people wanting to find out about communal welfare and social support services, religious activities particularly around the times of yomim tovim, and wedding and funeral regulations, as well as from individuals and organisations outwith the community, such as hospital chaplains and care homes, who have been seeking information about how to provide for Jewish people and their families during the pandemic.
- I provide information, support, and reassurance to members of the community who have been, or who fear becoming, the victim, of an antisemitic incident.
- I contribute to the drafting of a wide variety of SCoJeC documents including letters to Scottish Government Ministers, public statements, publicity materials, and responses to relevant publications from other organisations.
- I assist with the preparation of funding applications.
- I assist with the preparation of reports to funders, in particular the Scottish Government.
- I provide IT advice and administrative support to SCoJeC staff as required.

Leah Granat
June 2021



EVENTS so far this year:

- SCoJeC marked Holocaust Memorial Day with a talk by Avner Avraham on the capture of Adolf Eichmann in Argentina in 1960
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21i_hmd/hmd.html
- Scottish painter and print maker Stuart Duffin RSA inaugurated SCoJeC's Lecture Series with a talk about the significance of Jerusalem in his work
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21i_sd/sd.html
- SCoJeC celebrated Purim with 'A Very American Comedy Night'
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21i_sd/sd.html
- SCoJeC hosted an interdisciplinary panel of experts to discuss how Scotland, the UK and Israel have responded to the Covid pandemic
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21iii_covid/covid.html
- SCoJeC hosted children's writer Tom Palmer who spoke about his most recent book *After the War: From Auschwitz to Ambleside*
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21iii_ambleside/ambleside.html
- SCoJeC hosted a bread baking demonstration in partnership with Interfaith Glasgow's Weekend Club
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21iv_baking_together/baking.html
- SCoJeC hosted a panel on faith communities' response to climate change and preparations for the COP26 conference in Glasgow in November
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21iv_climate_network/climate.html
- SCoJeC hosted an interfaith discussion on the topic of the sabbath in partnership with Interfaith Glasgow's Weekend Club
 - https://www.scojec.org/news/2021/21v_sabbath/sabbath.html
- SCoJeC hosted poets and authors David Bleiman and Ellen Galford on Bleiman's *This Kilt of Many Colours*

We intend to hold more events throughout the rest of the year, including:

- 'What's Happening to the Uyghurs' in partnership with *Yet Again*
- A tree planting event in collaboration with the Interfaith Glasgow Weekend Club series.
- Developing the Lecture Series format, expanding our outreach.
- A Digital Edinburgh Fringe Festival in partnership with Edinburgh Hebrew Congregation.

We are also continuing to make our 'Zoom Room' available to other Jewish communal organisations to use during the Covid-19 pandemic.

With thanks to the Netherlee and Clarkston Trust, and the Joint Distribution Committee's *Tikkun in Action* fund for their support of SCoJeC's event programme.

STAFFING

Many thanks are due to Joanne Gabbay our Education and Events Officer for her management of our Education programme, and for her work in adapting these projects to an increasingly digital world.

Thanks also to Ruby Katz and Geanina Beres who worked with us as our Projects and Outreach Manager and Social Media and Marketing Assistant respectively and left SCoJeC in May, and to Linda Martin who has retired to Manchester after many years as our Highlands and Islands Coordinator.

We welcome Melissa Eisenberg back to the role of Social Media and Marketing Assistant.

Kirsty Robson

Projects and Outreach Manager

June 2021



During Covid-19 Lockdown we had to rethink how we delivered our education programme.

We now have online content for schools to access called “5-minute Judaism”. This includes short videos and additional resources (classroom tasks, information sheets) designed to suit different ages and abilities across the school community.

As we couldn’t send our current Volunteer Ambassadors (VAs) out to schools to deliver lessons on Judaism, the VAs helped us to produce some videos on topics they would have taught in the classroom.

We had a few new volunteers lined up to be trained. As we couldn’t do this in person, we involved them in the video production and they helped us produce the additional resources.

Thank you to Gary Friedman, Jennifer Speculand, Margalit Borowski, Stephanie Mitchell, Jane Ansell, Maia Brodie, Caitlin Brodie, Bill Shackman, Ariella Azoulay and Diane Kaye for all their hard work.

We also marketed our Volunteer Ambassadors to deliver lessons in to schools by “Google Teams”. Thanks to Joe Goldblatt and Margalit Borowski for delivering these lessons. Two schools took us up on the offer.

- Echt primary school, Aberdeenshire – two classes
- Preston Tower Primary School, Preston Road, Prestonpans East Lothian – four classes

(Unfortunately all schools had other more pressing priorities during Covid-19 than to host our VAs)

We intend to add to our short “5 Minute Judaism” videos that could be used alongside our Volunteer Ambassador visits to schools (currently being offered as “Teams” lessons). These will be aimed at all ages of young people across the school community and differentiated to suit the different levels and ages. We hope that content will be driven and presented by young people to ensure it is engaging.

We would like to expand and advertise our Volunteer Ambassador programme to different groups, namely advertising to new students, at the beginning of the next academic year.

Joanne Gabbay
Education and Outreach Officer
June 2021



Scottish Council of
Jewish Communities

Representing and Supporting Jewish People in Scotland



Glasgow Jewish
Representative Council

Danielle Bett

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SCoJeC & CJRC are Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations, SC029438 & SC047108

Report from JLC Scotland Regional Manager

June 2021



This will be my last report in my capacity as JLC Scotland Manager. Working with and for the Scottish Jewish community has been an honour. I'm forever grateful to the Jewish Leadership Council for the opportunity, not to mention the endless support and comradery throughout this time. The JLC gave me the space and independence needed to work with SCoJeC and the GJRC, thus ensuring the role would be truly Scotland focused. It's a difficult balance to strike when the head office is in London and your community in Scotland, but this didn't get in the way of our ability to work collaboratively.

I've always said I work for and with the Jewish community in Scotland. Organisations, labels and logos often feel irrelevant. Our goals ought to be aligned, and I believe they have been.

I joined the JLC in early 2017 – and in case its slipped from your memory, that was the beginning of the very public Labour antisemitism crisis. Our community found itself at the centre of the news cycle. This translated into working closely with communal organisations across the UK – like the CST and the JLC – to ensure we were aligned in our understanding and tackling of the issue, while also recognising the distinct differences in Scottish Labour's structures and cultures. In Scotland, like the rest of the UK, we met with party representatives, spoke with the press, pushed for action, called on allies to help. We should be proud of our work for standing up to racism and defending the community. I know it's left us with many scars, but it's also gained us friends and allies.

I've been proud to have built a strong relationship with Anas Sarwar. The Scottish community has an ally in him who understands anti-Jewish racism. But Labour isn't everything - we have allies cross party. We've worked with Jackson Carlaw on the cross-party group for Israel at the Scottish Parliament, and with the SNP on the adoption and use of the IHRA definition of antisemitism in their party, as well as Jewish engagement in general. During my time at the JLC I met with countless MSPs, MPs, and councillors of all parties to try and improve their understanding of Jewish issues – from antisemitism to Israel. We've build a strong relationship with senior SNP MPs and party HQ.

Mistakes are still made, and there's always more to be done. But despite headlines I truly believe Scotland is a good place to be Jewish.

We've made progress in interfaith spaces, working with unions, notably the GMB, as well as cross party and with leading non-profit bodies such as the Scottish Refugee Council. There's so much to be proud of and I often feel the bigger communities should learn from us, not vice versa.

I wanted to express my gratitude to the community for welcoming me into this role and supporting me throughout. I would be amiss not to highlight in particular the hard work and mentorship of Ephraim Borowski. From day one, Ephraim guided me in my role in learning about the community, the government, parliament, police, and beyond. He opened doors for me, helped me to network and to grow confident. He's someone our politicians are willing to listen to, and he helped me become a credible voice in Scottish politics and media. Ephraim – thank you for mentoring me in this role, thank you for being a friend to diverse Jewish people and an ally to those who needed it most.

I am now going to be working full time for Yachad UK, an organisation I have admired for years. Yachad is a pro-peace movement which mobilises British Jews to support and advocate for a political resolution to Israeli Palestinian conflict. I studied conflict resolution at university and this field has always been my passion, so I'm incredibly excited to be working in it on a full time basis.

I will continue to sit as a member of SCoJeC council representing Israelis in Scotland for the time being. I'm thankful for this opportunity to work with and for our community, and I hope you'll continue to see me as a friend and ally moving forward.

If you'd like to stay in touch: danielle@yachad.org.uk

Danielle Bett

June 2021