

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Venera Domi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Albania
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureux B.12.31/B.12.40
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Domi,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

As acknowledged by the draft text of Item 25, the Old City of Jerusalem is important to the three monotheistic religions. Numerous archaeological excavations have uncovered a myriad of antiquities that scientifically prove the historical connection of all three religions to Jerusalem, such as the discovery of the Pool of Siloam or the restoration of floor tiles of the Second Temple in the City of David. We celebrate the heritage and cultural ties of these religions to Jerusalem and the importance of Jerusalem to millions of people around the world.

Yet, this resolution seems to prioritize the Muslim heritage of the Old City, while diminishing the ties of either of the other religions. For example, the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism, along with the Western Wall, where Jews from all over the world have come to pray, are described exclusively as Muslim holy sites and referred to only by their Muslim names. When the Western Wall is referenced, it is only with quotation marks, implying that the title is unofficial and not based on historic fact.

UNESCO's mission is to build intercultural understanding through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity. This unnecessarily divisive and selective resolution undermines the very purpose and integrity of UNESCO by seeking to rewrite Jerusalem's history, rejects Jerusalem's multi-cultural heritage, and undercuts Jerusalem's extraordinary diversity. Forged in the aftermath of World War II, UNESCO strives to establish peace on the basis of humanity's moral and intellectual solidarity. Attempting to erase the Jewish and Christian connection to this sacred city will further damage the prospects of peace between Israel and the Palestinians. It is incumbent upon all Member States of the Executive Board to respect and protect the religious, cultural, and historical significance of Jerusalem as they would all other World Heritage sites and to uphold the values and ideals enshrined in UNESCO's Constitution.

We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board's 200th session.

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October 7, 2016

His Excellency Rodolfo H. Terragno
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M7.02/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/10
1, rue Miollis
75015 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Terragno,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Eliana Zugaib
Ambassador of Brazil
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau MR.07
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Zugaib,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

His Excellency Samuel Mvondo Ayolo
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France of Cameroon
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureaux M.2.01 et M2.49
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Mvondo Ayolo,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Denise Houphouet-Boigny
Ambassador of Cote d'Ivoire
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureaux B14.31, B14.32
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Houphouet-Boigny,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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Her Excellency Lorena Sol de Pool
Ambassador of El Salvador
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureaux R.44; R.45..R.47
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Sol de Pool,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

His Excellency Laurent Stefanini
Ambassador of France
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M8.14
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Stefanini,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Johanna Odonkor Svanikier
Ambassador of Ghana
Ambassade du Ghana
8, Villa Said
75116 Paris

Dear Ambassador Odonkor Svanikier,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under “Occupied Palestine” that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

Mrs. Maria Corantis
Charge d'Affaires p.i, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Greece
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M2.35/37
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ms. Corantis,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

Mrs. Lilas Desquiron
Chargee d'Affaires a.i. of Haiti
Secretariat
Bureaux B3.01-B3.02-B3.03-B3.04
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Mrs. Desquiron,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under “Occupied Palestine” that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Ruchira Kamboj
Ambassador of India
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureaux M1.42/M1.38
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Kamboj,

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October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Vincenza Lomonaco
Ambassador of Italy
Hotel de Gallifet
73, rue de Grenelle
75007 Paris

Dear Ambassador Lomonaco,

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Her Excellency Kuni Sato
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
100, avenue de Suffren
75015 Paris

Dear Ambassador Sato,

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His Excellency George Imbanga Godia
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kenya
UNESCO House
Office B10.28
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Imbanga Godia,

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Her Excellency Ambika Devi Luintel
Ambassador of Nepal
Ambassade du Nepal
45 bis, rue des Acacias
75017 Paris

Dear Ambassador Devi Luintel,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under “Occupied Palestine” that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

As acknowledged by the draft text of Item 25, the Old City of Jerusalem is important to the three monotheistic religions. Numerous archaeological excavations have uncovered a myriad of antiquities that scientifically prove the historical connection of all three religions to Jerusalem, such as the discovery of the Pool of Siloam or the restoration of floor tiles of the Second Temple in the City of David. We celebrate the heritage and cultural ties of these religions to Jerusalem and the importance of Jerusalem to millions of people around the world.

Yet, this resolution seems to prioritize the Muslim heritage of the Old City, while diminishing the ties of either of the other religions. For example, the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism, along with the Western Wall, where Jews from all over the world have come to pray, are described exclusively as Muslim holy sites and referred to only by their Muslim names. When the Western Wall is referenced, it is only with quotation marks, implying that the title is unofficial and not based on historic fact.

UNESCO’s mission is to build intercultural understanding through protection of heritage and support for cultural diversity. This unnecessarily divisive and selective resolution undermines the very purpose and integrity of UNESCO by seeking to rewrite Jerusalem’s history, rejects Jerusalem’s multi-cultural heritage, and undercuts Jerusalem’s extraordinary diversity. Forged in the aftermath of World War II, UNESCO strives to establish peace on the basis of humanity’s moral and intellectual solidarity. Attempting to erase the Jewish and Christian connection to this sacred city will further damage the prospects of peace between Israel and the Palestinians. It is incumbent upon all Member States of the Executive Board to respect and protect the religious, cultural, and historical significance of Jerusalem as they would all other World Heritage sites and to uphold the values and ideals enshrined in UNESCO’s Constitution.

We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board’s 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Mariam Y. Katagum
Ambassador of Nigeria
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau MS1.66
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Katagum,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board's 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

Mrs. Leticia Casati
Chargee d'Affaires a.i. of Paraguay
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau B7.30
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Mrs. Casati,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board's 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

His Excellency Lee Byong Hyun
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Republic of Korea
Bureau 607
33, avenue du Maine
75015 Paris

Dear Ambassador Hyun,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under “Occupied Palestine” that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board’s 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

His Excellency David P. Doyle
Ambassador of Saint Kitts and Nevis
28, rue Pasteur
92210 Saint-Cloud

Dear Ambassador Doyle,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under “Occupied Palestine” that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board’s 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

His Excellency Darko Tanaskovic
Ambassador of Serbia
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M5.41
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Tanaskovic,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board's 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Maria Teresa Lizaranzu Perinat
Ambassador of Spain
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau M3.14
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Lizaranzu Perinat,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board's 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

His Excellency Sankardja Lare-Sambiani
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Togo
Maison de l'UNESCO
B12.38
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Lare-Sambiani,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board's 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

Mrs. Anesa Ali-Rodriguez
Chargee d'Affaires a.i of Trinidad and Tobago
37-39, rue de Vermont
CH-1211 Geneve 20

Dear Mrs. Ali-Rodriguez,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under “Occupied Palestine” that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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We therefore respectfully urge your mission to UNESCO to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda for the Executive Board’s 200th session.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

His Excellency Tchary Niiazov
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Turkmenistan
Ambassade du Turkmenistan
13, rue Picot
75116 Paris

Dear Ambassador Niiazov,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under “Occupied Palestine” that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

Her Excellency Nimisha Jayant Madhvani
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uganda
Ambassade de l'Ouganda
13, avenue Raymond Poincare
75116 Paris

Dear Ambassador Jayant Madhvani,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2016

His Excellency Oleg Shamshur
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine
Maison de l'UNESCO
Bureau MS1.09
1, rue Miollis
75732 Paris Cedex 15

Dear Ambassador Shamshur,

As the 200th session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) prepares to meet in the coming days in Paris, France, we write to urge your mission to oppose Item 25 of the provisional agenda under "Occupied Palestine" that diminishes the historic and verified Jewish and Christian ties to the Old City of Jerusalem.

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