



**Advocates on behalf of Jews in Russia,
Ukraine, the Baltic States & Eurasia**

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2011 HIGHLIGHTS

Forty years ago, when Soviet Jews were at risk and desperate to move to Israel, American Jews put their money and their passion behind NCSJ, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, to help millions of Jews escape to freedom to Israel, the United States, and elsewhere.

Today, NCSJ is needed, now more than ever, to aid the more than one million Jews who are rebuilding Jewish life in the former Soviet Union (FSU). They make up the world's third largest Jewish population in a vast region that remains important to the United States and Israel. NCSJ needs your support and the cooperation of governments in the FSU, Israel, and the United States to ensure the security and well-being of this important Jewish community.



NCSJ Chairman Richard Stone and Ambassador of the Republic of Georgia to the United States Temuri Yakobashvili at the Board of Governors meeting in Washington, D.C.

RUSSIA

- Played a key role in gaining the release and safe return home of an American Jewish businessman unjustly imprisoned in Russia.
- Entered the coalition of organizations opposing Russian support of the unilateral declaration of Palestinian statehood, arms sales to Syria, and Iran's nuclear ambitions.
- Led the community effort to graduate Russia from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.
- Urged the government to ban publication and dissemination of *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.
- Pressed for a guilty verdict for neo-Nazi criminals, as part of a strategy to urge a strong political response to the spread of xenophobia and ultra-nationalism.

- Organized a community meeting for the Deputy Foreign Minister of Ukraine in Washington, D.C. with NCSJ member agencies.
- Only American Jewish group to participate in the government's 70th anniversary commemoration of Babi Yar. Advised and consulted with the government on the international ceremonial events, which nearly one thousand people attended.
- Protested plans to destroy the Golden Rose Synagogue in Lviv.



UKRAINE

- Part of an effort that persuaded the government to revoke the "Hero of Ukraine" medal given to Stepan Bandera, who was responsible for the death of thousands of Jews during WWII.

AZERBAIJAN

- Worked with government officials and community leaders to strengthen the U.S.-Azerbaijan relationship.
- Appeared on the Karabakh Foundation's radio program to discuss Jewish life in Azerbaijan.

NCSJ and national member agencies with Estonian Prime Minister Andrus Ansip and his delegation.



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PROTECTION • RENEWAL • CONTINUITY • NCSJ's 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

ESTONIA

- Met with the Prime Minister about Israel, shechita legislation, and Holocaust education.
- Hosted meetings for Estonian Jewish community leaders with American Jewish leaders in Washington, D.C.

LATVIA

- Called for government to speak out against Nazi sympathizers gathering in Riga.

LITHUANIA

- As part of the World Jewish Restitution Organization, successfully fought for passage of communal property restitution legislation.

MOLDOVA

- Led ongoing consultations with the government and Jewish community about communal property restitution.
- Advocated for Moldova's graduation from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

UZBEKISTAN

- Led meetings with the Ambassador about Israel and Jewish community concerns.

NATIONAL AGENCIES AND JEWISH FEDERATIONS

- Organized Project Keshet's leadership mission to Washington, D.C.
- NCSJ's Mark Levin served as scholar-in-residence on an AIPAC senior leadership mission to Moscow.
- Organized a Russian Jewish Congress leadership delegation to Washington, D.C. and coordinated the delegation's visits to Federations and national agencies in Boston, Chicago, Miami, and New York City.
- Advocated for the reauthorization of the Lautenberg Amendment to protect religious refugees, as part of a community coalition.
- Mediated a property dispute involving U.S. and Russian Jewish communities over the use of a community facility.
- Worked with the Greensboro Jewish Federation on its community partnership with Beltsy, Moldova and assisted with the Federation's Congressional outreach on graduating Moldova from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

MISSIONS

- Partnered with Hillel at Stanford to bring together students from Stanford University and Moscow Hillels for a week-long Student Leadership Program in Moscow and Warsaw.



NCSJ Executive Director Mark Levin with State Asm. Alec Brook-Krasny (NY) and U.S. House Foreign Affairs Chair Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL).



Russian Jewish Congress and NCSJ leaders with Michael McFaul, the National Security Council's Senior Director for Russia.



NCSJ President Alexander Smukler presents a rare copy of samizdat to U.S. Amb. John Beyrle at the ambassadorial residence in Moscow.

- Led delegation to Moscow to celebrate NCSJ's 40th anniversary at events hosted by the U.S. and Israeli Embassies.
- Participated in the dedication of Moscow's first Jewish Museum.
- Participated in the annual Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations mission to Israel.

U.S. GOVERNMENT

- President Obama appointed NCSJ's Lesley Weiss to serve on the Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad.
- Participated in quarterly State Department roundtables hosted by the Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Anti-Semitism.
- Briefed members of the diplomatic corps at the Foreign Service Institute.
- Presented at State Department meetings on Holocaust assets and religious freedom.
- Held ongoing discussions with senior administration officials on U.S.-Russia bilateral relations, rising xenophobia and extremism, property restitution, and the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

U.S. VISITS

- Met with FSU Jewish community leaders from Armenia, Belarus, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan during the American Jewish Committee's annual meeting.
- Met with the Azerbaijani Foreign Minister, Latvian Prime Minister, Lithuanian President, and Russian Foreign Minister during the opening of the UN General Assembly.

ISRAEL

- Urged FSU countries to vote against anti-Israel resolutions in the United Nations.
- Worked to strengthen bilateral relations between Israel and the FSU governments.

NCSJ Student Leadership Program participants at the Bronnaya Synagogue in Moscow.

