

Resolution EC 2205 - 7

Reaffirming Freedom of Religious Practice

The Executive Committee of the World Jewish Congress, meeting in Prague on 9 May, 2022,

REAFFIRMS previous resolutions on religious freedom, including 1310 ec-3, adopted in 2013, EC 170910-1, adopted in 2017, and resolution PA 2105-1, adopted in 2021, calling upon governments to reject all proposals to ban *shechita* (the rules mandated by Judaism for the humane slaughter of animals, which make meat kosher, i.e. fit for consumption);

EMPHASIZES that the rules mandated by Jewish religious law for the humane slaughter of animals have been a fundamental part of Jewish life for 3,000 years and that *schechita* has been accepted for centuries as a humane way of slaughtering animals for consumption;

DEPLORES the fact that recently some lawmakers have adopted, and in some instances courts have upheld legislation that makes it impossible to abide by this core tenet of Judaism, thus endangering the viability of Jewish communities;

REJECTS all false and inaccurate justifications aimed at presenting such legislation as adequate and proportionate to its stated objective of ensuring higher levels of animal welfare;

OPPOSES as violations of freedom of religious practice any attempts to present such legislation as consistent with freedom of religion despite protests by impacted communities;

URGES governments both within the European Union and elsewhere to reaffirm their commitment to fostering Jewish life and ensuring fundamental freedoms of all faith groups by maintaining or reinstating the right for affected Jewish communities to continue to perform *shechita*.