

European Chinuch Convention Huge Success

The first European Chinuch Convention, which took place in Amsterdam over last weekend, was a unique and unforgettable experience. The event was acclaimed by all the hundreds of participants to be an overwhelming and memorable success. From the time when the first delegates arrived on Thursday evening until the final closing session on Sunday afternoon, everyone was completely overwhelmed by the non-stop programme completely devoted to strengthening *chinuch* throughout Europe.

Opening Words

The convention took place in the Novotel Hotel, Schiphol Amsterdam. The hotel foyer began to be filled with luggage as the arrivals queued at reception to receive their room allocations. The luxury hotel originally assigned a few floors for the convention members, but as the demand for places grew, eventually all 13 floors of the hotel were booked for the weekend. A huge crowd of over 500 people arrived at the hotel within the space of a few hours. Some participants travelled with their families, others with only their spouses and many more travelled on their own in order to be able to take part in the convention. All guests were given an ID card, with the name of the town and *mossad* that they represented. Besides the security need for identification, the card enabled networking and socialising. Acquaintances and strangers alike were soon exchanging friendly greetings with each other as they enjoyed a buffet dinner, in the knowledge that everyone had come for the same purpose, in order to share and develop their professional skills to transmit Torah to the coming generations.

The *divrei pesichah* was held later in the evening in the upstairs conference hall. As the participants took their seats, the true significance of the occasion began to become clear. The convention represented the gathering together of some of the most trusted *avdei Hashem* – those men and women who had found their vocation in life in dedicating themselves to look after the pure *neshamos* of the younger generation. The delegates were drawn from more than 80 *mosdos hachinuch*, from Britain and

across mainland Europe as far as Russia, representing in total an estimated 30,000 children. The *rebbe'im* and teachers had sacrificed time and effort in order to come to join the convention, raising the importance of the gathering to the highest level.

The proceedings opened with a recorded message from Harav Shmuel Kamenetsky, *shlita*. Harav Kamenetsky is a member of the Va'ad Roshei Yeshivah of Torah Umesorah USA, and had intended to be present at the convention. As he was unable to be present in person, he sent his warmest greetings to the assembly, encouraging all the participants to take away practical advice from this new forum.

The opening session was introduced by Harav Yisroel Meir Rubinfeld, Honorary Convention Chairman. Harav Rubinfeld compared the unity that had been created by the conference between all the *mechanchim* and *mechanchos* across Europe to the unifying of the 12 stones under the head of Yaakov Avinu. The *tzon kedoshim* of Hashem need to follow in the tracks of the previous generations, as directed by the venerable Va'ad Roshei Yeshivos, who had given their support and encouragement to the convention.

Rabbi Rubinfeld acknowledged the great debt of gratitude owed by all the participants to the *askanim* who had brought about the convention. In particular, he mentioned the magnificent effort made by every member of his convention steering committee: Rabbi Yitzchok Uri Dunner, Amsterdam Cheder; Rabbi Schie Sanger, Zurich; Rabbi Jakob Shafferman, Antwerp; Rabbi Yitzchok Weitz, London; Rebbetzin Dara Goldschmidt, Moscow; and Mrs. Gina Levenberg and Mrs. Gitty Goldblatt from the newly formed Torah Umesorah Teachers' Centre in Manchester.

Achdus and Inspiration

The first European Convention was created by the steering committee, and took place with extensive guidance from Torah Umesorah USA. At the opening session, the National Director of Torah Umesorah Rav Dovid Nojowitz brought warm greetings from Torah Umesorah to the European Convention. Rav Nojowitz first described the deep emotions that

he felt when he saw the impressive *achdus* and harmony displayed between the *mechanchim* of diverse countries and different languages. The unity was surely a foretaste of the state of *achdus* that will exist in the times of *Moshiach*, he said. Rav Nojowitz elaborated on the achievements of Torah Umesorah in order to give *chizuk* and high aspirations to all the participants. They are all truly *mezakeh es harabbim* and shine like stars in the darkness of the night.

Dayan Aharon Dovid Dunner, UOHC London, introduced the theme of the convention. Dayan Dunner summarised the purpose of the weekend under three headings – first, inspiring each *mechanech* and *mechaneches* with a life-changing revelation of the supreme importance of their profession in the eyes of Hashem. Second, the convention will encourage professionalism in their work, giving attention to the needs and qualities of each *talmid*. Dayan Dunner relayed to his audience the brief message that he received from Harav Chaim Kanievski, *shlita*, to deliver to the convention: that every *mechanech* has an obligation to carefully prepare his lesson before he arrives in the classroom. Last, the convention gives a golden opportunity for networking and sharing and benefitting from the strengths and good ideas that each *rebbe* and teacher has to offer. All children have a spark of *kedushah*, as David Hamelech says, “*Mimaamakim karasicha*” – the spark is sometimes buried in the depths of their hearts and they need the warmth of the *mechanchim* to ignite the fire.

The final speaker was Harav Yaakov Bender, Rosh Yeshivah Yeshivah Darchei Torah, Far Rockaway. Rav Bender spoke on the vital need to establish a personal link and *kesher* with every *talmid* in order to know his needs and requirements. Illustrating his words with many personal anecdotes, the *Rosh Yeshivah* showed that a single comment from a *rebbe* can convey the message that the child is cared for, and can resonate many years later in his life.

The *tefillas Maariv* that followed was filled with inspiration and anticipation for the opportunities for *siyatta diShmaya* that the convention was about to provide. Indeed, they were



Rabbi Yisroel Meir Rubinfeld, Honorary Chairman of the Convention, at the opening remarks.

not disappointed. In the lectures that followed on the next three days a total of 30 workshop sessions were delivered by experts and numerous inspiring *divrei chizuk* were given by the *Gedolei Torah* who graced the convention with their presence.

History, Chinuch and Understanding

The topics of the workshops spanned a huge range. Dr. Aharon Hersh Fried is best known for his pioneering work in Jewish special education. He delivered several enlightening lectures on understanding and dealing with learning disabilities, such as Attention Deficit Disorder, and teaching accuracy and fluency in *kriah*. Dr. Fried gave the historical background to the treatment of learning disabilities and the typical symptoms found with them. He also outlined the positive capabilities of these children and emphasised that a diagnosis must be based on a range of tests.



Representatives of the Steering Committee presenting *divrei brachah* to Mr Boruch van de Kamp. (L.-R.): Rabbi Jakob Shafferman (Jesode-Hatora Beth Jacob, Antwerpen), Rabbi Schie Sanger (Jewish Girls School, Zürich), Mr Boruch van de Kamp, Rabbi Yisroel Meir Rubinfeld (Torah Umesorah, USA) Rabbi Yitzchok Weitz (Beis Yaakov Primary School, NW London), Rabbi Yitzchok Uri Dunner (Cheider Amsterdam)



At the *pesichah* (L.-R.): HaRav Gershon Miller (Masghiach, Gateshead Yeshiva), Rav Dovid Nojowitz (Menahel, Torah Umesorah, USA), Rabbi Eliezer Wolff (Chief Rabbi, Amsterdam), HaRav Yaakov Bender (Rosh Yeshivah, Darchei Torah, Far Rockaway, NY), HaRav Malkiel Kotler (Rosh Yeshivah, Beth Medrash Govoha, Lakewood, NJ), Dayan Aaron Dovid Dunner (Dayan, UOHC, London).

Rav Shmuel Yaakov Klein, the head of Zechor Yemos Olam Holocaust Education Department of Torah Umesorah presented a workshop on Holocaust Studies. He explained that in the immediate post-war era the emphasis of the *tzaddikim* was to rebuild the destroyed places of Torah. Today we have a clear obligation to ensure that the next generations have knowledge of what we suffered during the war. However, this must be in the context of understanding the whole sweep of Jewish history in *galus*.

One of the outstanding features of the convention was the large contribution made by European experts. Although the weekend was graced by *Gedolei Torah* from America and the whole event was established under the guidance of Torah Umesorah USA, many of the outstanding personalities who delivered workshops and *shiurim* were drawn from this side of the Atlantic.

Rabbi Gershon Miller, well-known *mashgiach* in Gateshead Yeshiva, gave a fascinating workshop discussing the vexing question, “Has *Chinuch* Changed?” Should we offer our children unconditional love or train our offspring to respect strict justice? Rav Miller quoted a comment found in the *sefer Meshech Chochmah* that distinguishes between *hashgachas Hashem*, the way that Hashem conducts the world, and the deeper, essential love that Hashem has for every human being that He created. Similarly, each of our children needs a different approach according to his needs. However, this must always be accompanied by an inner, indestructible love for that child. A hug has more effect to a child than a thousand *drashos*. As a result, we need to devote time to understand the needs of our children.

Another enlightening presentation was given by Rabbi Shimshon Silkin and Rabbi Yonason Roodyn from London on behalf of Klal Chazon, an organisation that provides inspiring educational experiences for *frum* teenagers to help them strengthen and revitalise their relationship with Torah. Klal Chazon has constructed a syllabus to teach *ikrei emunah* to our teenagers. The presentation focussed on the essence of the *mitzvah* of *emunah* according to various *Rishonim*.

Active Learning With Geshmak

Rabbi Yehudah Hager is Head of Gemara in Hasmonian High School in NW London. He presented his revolutionary *Gemara Berurah* computer learning programme. This programme allows *talmidim* to identify and decode the key words in any *sugya* that they are learning. This new system has been eagerly adopted in schools across Europe.

One of the most popular workshops was constructed by two teachers in Beis Yaakov Primary School, NW London. Miss Chani Rabson and Miss Devorah Grant are both primary school teachers who, along with the Beis Yaakov *kodesh* staff, have taken part in the school’s extensively researched programme of Active Learning in *limmudei kodesh*. With great poise and confidence, they demonstrated the system to a large group of ladies, who sat fascinated by their presentation. The workshop included a detailed PowerPoint production with video clips of Active Learning taking place in a real-life classroom setting. This included various activities and custom-designed games that the workshop participants themselves were able to



Rabbi Shmuel Yaakov Klein at one of the workshops

perform. In this innovative and groundbreaking method, every stage of learning — for example, a new *passuk* — is broken down into simple tasks that can be actively performed by the children themselves. The beauty of the scheme is that all the children become excited and involved in the learning process, and the simplicity with which the activity ideas can be implemented. Many teachers were inspired to implement immediately some of the suggestions in their own class. Miss Rabson and Miss Grant have both been invited to demonstrate their ideas in other towns and countries.

Some of the other topics included “Reward and Punishment” by the renowned Rav Noach Orlowek, and “Unique Challenges of Adolescence” from Rabbi Yoel Kramer. Rabbi Kramer is a veteran *mechanech* with more than 50 years’ experience. He also gave two workshops in his unique style on the topic of how to integrate active participation into a lesson.

Rebbetzin Rinah Tarshish, *Menacheles* Mesores Rochel Seminary, gave an erudite workshop to ladies on the understanding of *Midrashei Chazal*. Her impressive presentations made her a big success with the women and gained her a large audience of ladies at several impromptu *drashos*. During *seudah shelishis* time she spoke to ladies for an hour, and later gave a workshop on the topic “Giving Our Children a *Geshmak* in *Yiddishkeit*.”

Extending the Benefit

On Thursday night a special meeting was convened for senior school management teams. About 100 *menahalim* and lead staff attended. The purpose of the meeting was to provide continuity in order to extend the remarkable benefits of the convention to all *mosdos hachinuch* throughout the year. A questionnaire was distributed in order to gauge interest in various areas of management and teacher networking and professional training.

The seating at breakfast on Friday and Sunday morning was arranged according to the level of the *rebbe'im* and teachers. Thus, first grade *rebbe'im* sat together, *Gemara rebbe'im* sat on another table

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Interview With Rabbi Shmuel Yaakov Klein

Director of Publications and Communications Torah Umesorah
Head of Zechor Yemos Olam Holocaust Education Division

Rabbi Klein is a veteran of the Torah Umesorah Conventions in America. How does the first European Convention compare to them?

In brief, it compares very favourably. I have been most impressed with the efficiency with which the whole programme was run. The committee has successfully managed to establish the concept of a convention in Europe. The schedule throughout the weekend has been very varied and informative for all grades of *mechanchim* and *mechanchos*. I could feel the excitement and enthusiasm in the air from the moment all the guests entered the hotel.

In the States we have been holding these events for about six decades and they have become very large and not everyone has a chance of meeting everybody else. I found that here everybody at the European Convention was able to blend well together.

The intention is to make this an annual event, so I expect the high standards that have been achieved will soon be taken for granted just as they are in the States!

How do you expect the convention influence the general standards of chinuch in Europe?

The convention is a true milestone in the development of *chinuch*, and has been without a doubt a huge *chizuk* for all those who were privileged to be present. But the benefits of the convention are not limited to those who could attend. The convention has lifted the status of every *melamed* and teacher. Even those who were not present deserve our highest respect, as they are carrying out our most precious mission: to transmit our *mesorah* to the next generations. This message will definitely also have a ripple effect on the rest of Europe. I have already been approached by some European *mosdos* to bring our programmes and expertise to them.

One of the ways that the convention has an effect on smaller communities is that they have an opportunity to be in the proximity of *Gedolei Torah* and access

valuable advice from them.

In addition, much interest has been generated in the convention in the many varied resources that are available in the new Torah Umesorah Teachers’ Centre in Manchester. The centre is the first Torah Umesorah facility established outside America and Canada. As a result of the convention, these excellent resources have become known and are widely available. Other towns may see the attractive resources and be encouraged to provide them for their own *mosdos*.

What comments does Rabbi Klein have on the standards of the amenities at the convention?

The whole event was efficiently organised and was a massive *kiddush Hashem*. The hotel staff was deeply impressed by the behaviour and *menschlichkeit* of the participants. This is invariably so with every gathering of *anshei chinuch*, since we always strive to be role models for our children. So it came as no surprise to me that the staff was given a standing ovation at the closing session, because that is who we are — *hakaras hatov* comes naturally.

Turning now to Holocaust studies, how have they been received in Europe?

In the convention, the Torah Umesorah Zechor Yemos Olam programme has aroused much interest. In general, I have found Europeans to be more reluctant to discuss the dark years of the Holocaust. This might be because they are much closer to the locations where the events took place. I always try to emphasise the positive greatness of *Klal Yisrael* rather than focussing on negative events.

What message does Rabbi Klein have for our readers?

I think the convention is another magnificent manifestation of the promise of Hashem to us. Despite the Holocaust and all the efforts of our enemies to uproot us from the world, the Torah is *nitzchiyus* and *Klal Yisrael* is eternal!



Harav Malkiel Kotler at the She'eilos Uteshuvos Session on Motzaei Shabbos.



**Beis
Yaakov
Primary
School**

would like to thank
the Steering Committee of the
EU Chinuch Convention

and the
**Louis & Dina van de Kamp
Foundation**

for bringing a much needed source of
networking and professional development
to Europe

We salute our inspirational Menahel
Rav Yitzchok Weitz שליט"א
for the time and energy that he has invested
in this groundbreaking project

and we are immensely proud of our
dedicated and talented Kodesh teachers
Miss C Rabson & Miss D Grant
ably assisted by
Miss M Bude, Miss C Conick & Miss D Rose
for bringing
Beis Yaakov Primary School's
innovative and unique
Active Learning programme
to thousands of children
throughout Europe

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together, and so on. This provided an ideal opportunity for networking and gathering new ideas and comments from each other. The tasty food provided by the caterer was an ideal background for earnest discussion between all the participants, as they exchanged ideas and topics. The friendships formed during the convention will provide many *rebbe'im* and teachers with useful contacts for the future.

For the many of the *mechanchim*, the greatest benefit from the convention was the presence of the *Gedolei Torah* throughout the whole weekend. Besides delivering their *divrei chizuk*, the great personalities made themselves available for informal discussions with individual *rebbe'im*. Late into the night, groups were clustered around the *Roshei Yeshivah*, eager to use the unique opportunity to ask their advice and *da'as Torah*.

Friday Night in the Foyer

The pace of the convention slowed down on Friday afternoon as the hotel prepared for Shabbos. Naturally, the non-Jewish staff had no experience of their hotel guests keeping Shabbos. However, in the months leading up to the weekend, the staff showed complete dedication to adjust the hotel for Shabbos. The proprietor of the hotel, Mr. Boruch van de Kamp, is very involved with the Amsterdam Cheder, joined the committee and made the European Chinuch Convention possible by making the hotel available.

At the beginning of the preparations the hotel engaged the services of the redoubtable Moshe Davis, a son of the renowned Agudah *askan* Reb Chaim Yaakov Davis, z"l, to coordinate the logistics. Mr. Davis was most impressed with the unusually positive attitude of all the staff. In fact, Mr. van de Kamp takes great personal interest in the welfare of all his workers and hires them on the basis of their positive initiative rather than merely their work experience. The staff went painstakingly through the hotel, deactivating all the electronic locks and making all the other arrangements necessary to ensure *shemiras Shabbos*. Shabbos Kodesh was finally welcomed in to Novotel Hotel with the communal *hadlakas haneiros* of the ladies after the men had gone to daven *Kabbalas Shabbos*. The beauty and serenity of the whole scene made a deep impression on everyone, including the hotel staff.

Meanwhile, the men had gathered in an especially built marquee that served as the *beis medrash*. Before *Kabbalas Shabbos*, the assembly was addressed by Rabbi Pinchos Goldschmidt, Chief Rabbi of Moscow. Rabbi Goldschmidt spoke about the need to maintain a separation between *Klal Yisrael* and the rest of the world, as symbolised by the three days' journey between Yaakov and Lavan. The *tefillos* were led by Reb Abish Brodt, with the whole *beis medrash* joining in enthusiastically in an unforgettably uplifting *Lecha Dodi*. Before *Maariv*, the convention was honoured with words of *chizuk* from Harav Malkiel Kotler, *shlita*, *Rosh Yeshivah* Beis Medrash Govoha, Lakewood. In his inspiring words, the *Rosh Yeshivah* described the limitless merit of those who transmit the Torah to the next generation of *Klal Yisrael*. The *melamdei tinokos* are the ones who are responsible for bringing the fire of *kedushah* into all the generations that will be born in the future. As a result, their reward can never be diminished and they

will shine in the firmament forevermore,

The *seudos Shabbos* were tastefully presented and efficiently served. Dresdner Catering of Antwerp was responsible for catering the convention. Since their normal kitchen staff from Antwerp were not available, the whole Dresdner family travelled to help the caterer. Their efforts were appreciated and enjoyed by everyone.

Later on Friday night a memorable *Oneg Shabbos* was held in the foyer. Stirring *zemiros* were led by Reb Abish Brodt, followed by interesting anecdotes and *divrei Torah* from Dayan Dunner.

Shabbos, Shacharis and Seudah Shelishis

The *aliyos* of *Krias HaTorah* during *Shacharis* were auctioned for the benefit of Amsterdam Cheder. Following the great philanthropic deeds of Mr. Boruch van de Kamp, the *Rabbanei ha'ir* decided to award him the title of "*chaver*." During *Krias HaTorah*, he was honoured with an *aliyah* using his well-deserved title.

After *Shacharis*, a keynote address was delivered in the packed *beis medrash* by Harav Gershon Miller. The theme of his memorable *divrei hisorerus* was our responsibility to prepare our youth for the difficulties that they will inevitably meet in their future lives. Quoting the Midrash, Rabbi Miller translated "*vayifga bamakom* — and he [Yaakov] encountered the place" as meaning that Yaakov was challenged by seemingly insurmountable difficulties. In resounding tones Rabbi Miller repeated the challenge of a concentration guard to an inmate, "If you are a *Yid*, you can overcome!"

Before *Minchah* on Shabbos afternoon, Harav Bender delivered a passionate address, on the theme of "Reaching Every Child." Our *chinuch* must reach out and be all-inclusive, as the *passuk* states "*v'chol banayich limudei Hashem* — all your children have a right to know about Hashem."

During *seudah shelishis*, Harav Aharon Schiff, *Mara d'Asra* of Kehillas Machzikei Hadass Antwerp, spoke fiery *divrei chizuk* to the *melamdim* about the great responsibility they carry to be *mechanech* the children of *Klal Yisrael*. Harav Schiff recounted an incident when a *talmid* held a grudge against his *rebbe* for many years because the *rebbe* had not given him enough praise.

On Motzoei Shabbos after *Havdalah* and a joyous *Kiddush Levanah*, more workshops took place before the main programme of *She'eilos Uteshuvos* answered by members of the panel. The panel consisted of Harav Malkiel Kotler, Rav Yaakov Bender, Rav Noach Orlowek and Rav Gershon Miller. The questions had been submitted beforehand and were presented to the panel by Rabbi Rubinfeld. Many issues were brought up for discussion, including using modern technology and choosing advisable literature for children. Teaching methods were also discussed, such as a satisfactory way to *farher* all children in a class without embarrassing anyone.

Mechanchim Are Avdei Hashem!

All too soon the session was brought to a conclusion. A presentation was made to Mr. Boruch van de Kamp in great appreciation for his support of the whole convention. The presentation was made by Rav Rubinfeld, and Mr. van de Kamp was given a hearty standing ovation as he went forward to receive the framed inscription.

The evening concluded with a *melaveh*

malkah that went on into the night. The convivial atmosphere that had pervaded the whole of Shabbos continued. Once again, the main topics of discussion revolved around *chinuch* and the ideas that had been mentioned.

Many of the participants remarked on the efficiency with which the whole convention took place. All the lectures and workshops began on time with all the apparatus present and in working order. Exhibition stands were on permanent display to offer various new ideas for sale. These showcased the wonderful features available from the Torah Umesorah Teachers' Centre in Manchester. Since its opening ten months ago, about 1,400 visits

have been made, helping 7,000 pupils in 45 schools. Also on display were schemes designed to discourage bullying and for teaching science, for teaching *Gemara* and for tracking the progress of *talmidim*.

On Sunday morning, following the successful networking breakfast and the final sessions of workshops, all the participants gathered in the upstairs auditorium for the final session. Rabbi Yitzchok Uri Dunner introduced the final speakers. Harav Aharon Schiff summarised the great elevation that had taken place during the course of the convention. The atmosphere had been permeated with a sense of *bikush* — of searching for advice how to teach. Everyone had come to try to

improve their ability to be *mechanchim* and *mechanchos*. That was a sign that they were all true *avdei Hashem* that were trying to carry out their profession with truth and sincerity.

Rabbi Rubinfeld expressed everyone's thoughts of everybody when he voiced his thanks for the *siyatta diShmaya* that had accompanied the convention since its inception, and asked for more help from Hashem to carry out the resolutions and plans that had been made for the future success of *chinuch* in Europe.

In an emotional speech, Rabbi Yitzchok Uri then called out a long list of all those who had worked so hard to ensure the success of the convention, accompanied

by enthusiastic applause. Long and loud applause was reserved for the hotel staff. The final session concluded with a *kapitel Tehillim* led by Rav Rubinfeld. The crowds gradually dispersed as they began their journeys home to their respective towns.

The first European Chinuch Convention succeeded beyond the dreams of the Committee, who are now planning future events. The convention has succeeded in raising high the status of all our *mechanchim* and *mechanchos*, whether they attended the convention or could not come. They all belong to an exclusive group of *avdei Hashem* who carry the responsibility of the next generations in their hands.



Rabbi Gershon Miller, mashgiach of Gateshead Yeshiva at one of the workshop sessions.



Dayan A D Dunner addressing the convention theme.



Harav Aharon Schiff, Rav of Antwerp at the closing remarks



Engaging in animated discussion during a workshop session.



Comparing notes during the convention.

Kiddush Hashem at Chinuch Convention

The Chinuch Convention was not only tremendously inspirational for those who attended, but it also proved to be a source of a great kiddush Hashem among the staff who facilitated it.

From the beginning of the convention, when the delegates waited very good-naturedly in queues to check in to their rooms, as some 500 people arrived in a short space of time, to find only three check-in positions, until the end, when the staff received a standing ovation from the entire convention in a spontaneous show of gratitude for their help and attention to detail, the *olam* made a continuously good impression on all those with whom they came into contact.

As people arrived at the hotel, they waited patiently and respectfully for the staff to be able to help them. The staff commented how polite and understanding everybody was, and how delightful it

was to see chairs being brought for older people, and drinks of water being offered around. They said that it was very unusual to see this sort of behaviour, and for so many people to ask how they were coping, rather than just demanding the key to their room as quickly as possible.

Over Shabbos, the staff went out of their way to be as accommodating as possible, even though many of the requests were surprising and unusual to them. Before Shabbos, all the restroom facilities were switched from automatic to manual, light sensors around the building were disabled and some 320 door locks were switched to manual override. The catering took place over two floors in four areas — mens', ladies', couples' and family seating, yet the staff took this all in their stride and managed to serve the food and clear away all the mess smoothly.

Since the lifts in the hotel need to be

activated with a door card for a room and since on Motzoei Shabbos, no one had their card with them, it was arranged that a staff member would go in each lift to enable people to reach their rooms. Again, there was no rushing and everybody went in a pleasant and orderly fashion. One lady asked the staff member what they felt about Shabbos, given it that it wasn't what they were used to, and whether they would be pleased to see the back of these unusual guests. To her surprise, the staff member said, "No, not at all!" He explained that while some of the requests were indeed very unusual, the guests were delightful and very appreciative. He said that the politeness with which they treated the staff made a welcome change from some of their other guests, who are not nearly as polite.

Shabbos itself made a huge impression on the hotel staff. Apparently, one of the

female staff members, after her shift had finished, went into the staff room, lit a candle and meditated for a while, before bursting into tears of emotion. She had been moved and fascinated by the sight of several hundred people sitting and eating peacefully and joyfully, engaged in animated conversation with each other, with no phones present, and remembering to thank the serving staff.

After the majority of the delegates had left, the manager of the hotel told one of the organisers that this was the first time that his staff had ever been thanked so publicly and given such a warm round of applause.

It is very heartwarming to know that the *kehillah* can make a *kiddush Hashem* in this way, and particularly to see the caliber and *middos* of those who are entrusted with the *chinuch* of our children.



impacting an estimated

30,000
children

14

cities

3



languages

30



work-
shops



85 schools



75

senior leaders

over

400

אנשי חינוך



18

presenters



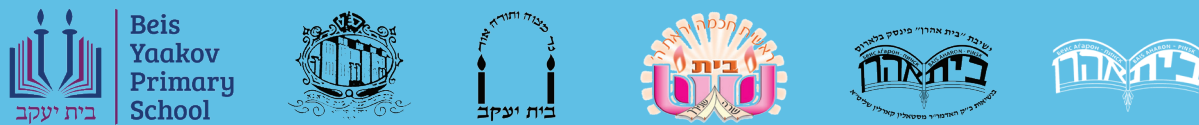
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EU CHINUCH
CONVENTION

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WITH GUIDANCE FROM TORAH UMESORAH

The Steering Committee of the EU Chinuch Convention would like to wish a ברכת הצלחה רבה to the participating schools and their wonderfully dedicated מחנכים and מחנכות, Menahelim and Menahalos, Melamdin, Rebbe's, Teachers and Morahs for the remainder of the school year.



Aim Habonim, Antwerp Cheder, Beis Hamedrash Elyon, Beis Hatalmud, Beis Yakov Wien, Beit Yaacov de Sarcelles, Broughton Jewish, Gibraltar Secondary Boys School, Verein Jüdischer Kindergarten, Talmud Torah Belz Tiferes High School for Girls, Yesodey Hatorah School (Seniors) *Partial List

The Steering Committee of the EU Chinuch Convention would like to express deep appreciation to

Rabbi & Mrs Eliyohu Fordsham
Gateshead

Mrs Ruchama Meisner & Family
Golders Green

Mr Moshe Davis & Team
Edgware

We are truly indebted to the many, many late nights, early mornings and all the hours in between spent on working towards making this convention a success.

Encouraged by your families to give up precious family time לטובת הכלל, your positive reinforcement and selfless sacrifice is hugely appreciated and is certainly not taken for granted.

Rabbi Yisroel Meir Rubinfeld
Executive School Consultant
Torah Umesorah
Brooklyn, NY, USA

Rabbi Yitzchok Uri Dunner
High School Rebbe
Cheider Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Rabbi Schie Sängler
Menahel
Jewish Girls School
Zürich, Switzerland

Rabbi Jakov Shafferman
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