

JUUDI KULTUURI-**100** AUTONOOMIA 1926–1940

Conference

100 Years of Cultural Autonomy of the Jewish Minority

Friday, June 5, 2026

Joint Ministry Building Conference Centre (Tamme Hall),
Suur-Ameerika Str. 1

Agenda

08:45 – 09:30 – Registration and welcome coffee

09:30 – Opening of the conference and greetings:

- Heidy Purga, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Estonia
- Eduard Klas-Glass, President of the Estonian Jewish Community
- Shmuel Efraim Kot, Chief Rabbi of Estonia
- H.E. Amit Gil-Bayaz, Ambassador of Israel
- Maya Samokovlija, Executive Director of the World Jewish Congress

Part I of the Conference

10:15 – Prerequisites for cultural autonomy and the emergence of its necessity. Liisa Lail, Creative Curator at the Estonian History Museum

10:45 – The declaration of cultural autonomy for the Jewish minority based on archival and press materials. Gennadi Gramberg, Director of the Estonian Jewish Museum, students from the 11th grade of the Tallinn Jewish School

11:15 – Cultural autonomies of the German and Jewish minorities in Estonia: differences and common ground. Kaido Laurits, Archivist at the National Archives of Estonia

11:40 – Opening of the exhibition "Jewish Cultural Autonomy 100" in the foyer. Gennadi Gramberg, Director of the Estonian Jewish Museum

12.00 – 12.45 – Break (coffee and light lunch)

Part II of the Conference

12:45 – Musical greeting. Elizaveta Gofmekler and Matvei-Aaron Obolonin, seniors at the Tallinn Jewish School

13:00 – Cultural life of the Estonian Jewish community 1926–1940. Anu Pöldsam, Lecturer of Jewish Studies at the University of Tartu

13:25 – The significance of Jewish cultural autonomy in the European context. Professor David Smith (Glasgow University)

13:50 – Reading of an excerpt from the article "Through the Baltic States. III – ESTONIA: An Oasis of Toleration," *The Jewish Chronicle*, 25.09.1936

14:00 – Panel Discussion: The significance of Jewish cultural autonomy today

Participants: Alla Jakobson (attorney at law, member of the Council of Estonian Jewish Community), Timo Aava (University of Tartu, Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies and the Institute of History and Archaeology), Ringo Ringvee (Advisor at the Ministry of the Interior), Marika Guralnik (Jewish Community of Estonia)

Moderator: Silver Loit

14.45 – End of the conference

16:00 Unveiling of the memorial plaque on the wall of the former Tallinn Jewish Gymnasium. Karu Str. 16



KULTUURIMINISTEERIUM



SISEMINISTEERIUM



JUSTIITS- JA DIGIMINISTEERIUM

