

JEWISH REVIEW

The Federation of Jewish Communities in Serbia

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OUR GUEST Nachliel Dison (by Sasha Ristic)



The Law is One thing, Implementation – Something Else.

Serbia is an example of a country that has taken positive steps to support our Jewish community and Holocaust survivors.

In February of 2016, the Parliament of the Republic of Serbia passed a law which dealt with the restitution of heirless Jewish property from the Holocaust era. This law was seen as an important step towards justice and towards recognizing a painful history. Restitution advocates have praised Serbia for this major accomplishment. They suggest that other European and Central European countries learn from Serbia's progress in the discussion of Holocaust restitution.

While Serbia's commitment to restitution should be applauded there is still more work to be done. The World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) played an important role in the passage of Serbia's restitution law. Nachliel Dison, the Acting Director General of the WJRO, was recently in Belgrade and visited the Federation of Jewish Communities of Serbia. We sat down with Mr. Dison to discuss his experiences as a member of the WJRO and as a restitution advocate.

To begin, what is the purpose of your visit to Serbia?

I wanted to see how the process of restitution is progressing in Serbia. I am a member of the supervisory board which monitors the restitution funds that are received from the Serbian government. The supervisory board is responsible for overseeing and reviewing the distribution and use of the restitution funds. The