



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

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## 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

NCSJ's major focal points in 2009 were to mobilize constituents and colleagues in the U.S., former Soviet Union (FSU) and Israel to safeguard Jewish political freedoms in the region, to rally these governments' support for Israel and against Durban II, the UN Goldstone Report, and Iran's production of a nuclear arsenal. NCSJ also fulfilled "next generation" goals by expanding the Student Leadership Program to include advocacy and policy training in Washington, D.C. as well as in FSU national capitals.



(l.-r.) NCSJ Chairman Richard Stone greeted Chief Rabbi of Moscow Pinchas Goldschmidt at the Board of Governors meeting in Washington, D.C.

### RUSSIA

- Performed prominent role in Iran strategy discussions with senior officials to secure Russian support for inhibiting Iran's development of a nuclear arsenal.
- Monitored, briefed, and consulted with U.S., Russian and Georgian officials and the Jewish community on the ongoing Russian-Georgian conflict.
- Worked with governments and local communities to address the refusal of entry visas to foreign rabbis and religious leaders who preside over holiday services and teach in local schools and synagogues.

### UKRAINE

- Anti-Semitic outbursts by the mayor of Uzhgorod, a large city in Ukraine, prompted NCSJ to push for a strong statement of condemnation from the national government. In response, the national government both condemned the mayor and opened a criminal investigation against him.
- Talks with President Yushchenko and other government officials led them to halt plans to build a hotel on the sacred grounds of the Babi Yar Holocaust Memorial.

- Meetings with government officials led to Ukraine's joining with five major nations in the UN Human Rights Council, including the United States, to vote against the Goldstone Report on the Gaza conflict.

### AZERBAIJAN

- Worked with government officials and community leaders to strengthen the U.S.-Azerbaijan relationship and published a country report documenting the accomplishments of the nation's Jews, and the challenges they face.

### BELARUS

- Protested to the Embassy of Belarus about the demolition of a historic synagogue in the city of Luban.
- Monitored and reported on cemetery desecrations in Volkovysk.

### GEORGIA

- Provided key political contacts with the Georgian, Russian and U.S. governments and analysis during the ongoing Russian-Georgian conflict.

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Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov met with NCSJ and Russian Jewish leadership in Moscow.

# PROTECTION • RENEWAL • CONTINUITY • NCSJ's 2009 HIGHLIGHTS

## KAZAKHSTAN

- Supported Kazakhstan's bid to chair the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe.
- Coordinated Chief Rabbi Cohen's visit to Washington, D.C. in support of Kazakhstan's graduation from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment.

## LATVIA

- Presented at international conference on "Jewish Life in Post-Soviet Space" in Riga, co-organized by the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress and Council of Jewish Communities of Latvia.

## LITHUANIA

- Met with senior government officials about restitution of Jewish communal property, anti-Semitism, and the government's war crimes investigation of Jewish partisans.

## MOLDOVA

- Ongoing consultations with the government and Jewish community about communal property restitution.

## INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

- Met with foreign leaders from the successor states at the UN General Assembly in September, including Ukrainian President Yushchenko and Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov.
- Provided information, analysis and guidance to FSU embassies and consulates in Washington, D.C., New York City, and officials in FSU capitals.
- Participated in the Global Forum on Anti-Semitism in Israel, and consulted with the International Task Force on the Holocaust.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT

- Met with President Obama's transition team in January and submitted policy paper, "Russia and the Independent States of the Former Soviet Union: A Set of Policy Guidelines." (Available at [www.ncsj.org/documents/NCSJ-2009-position-paper.pdf](http://www.ncsj.org/documents/NCSJ-2009-position-paper.pdf))



NCSJ Executive Director Mark Levin met with Pope Benedict XVI in Rome on a Conference of Presidents trip.



NCSJ Executive Director Mark Levin and senior Members of Congress at the Iran Advocacy Day.



NCSJ student leaders from Stanford and Moscow Hillside in Red Square.

- Presented in roundtables convened by the U.S. State Department on human rights and democracy in the FSU.
- Presented in State Department meetings on Holocaust assets and religious freedom.
- Participated in a special service at Arlington National Cemetery commemorating the historic meeting of U.S. and Soviet World War II forces at the Elbe River on April 24, 1945. Participants included U.S. and Russian WWII veterans, current military personnel, U.S. and Russian government officials, and diplomats from almost every country of the former USSR.

## ISRAEL

- Urged FSU countries to vote against anti-Israel and anti-Semitic resolutions in the United Nations.
- Continued working to strengthen the bilateral relationships between Israel and the FSU governments.

## NEW YORK

- Joined Stand for Freedom in Iran Rally organized by the New York Jewish Community Relations Council and the UJA-Federation of New York, as part of nationwide effort.
- Presented at the first U.S.-held Limmud FSU conference on Jewish life and culture for several hundred Russian-speaking young Jews.

## JEWISH FEDERATIONS

- Coordinated the National Jewish Leadership Advocacy Day on Iran in Washington, D.C.
- Coordinated Federation missions to the FSU, and briefed on current political, economic, and social conditions of the FSU countries as they affect the Jewish populations.

## MISSIONS

### NCSJ STUDENT ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

- Launched new three-year partnership with Hillel at Stanford to bring students to Moscow and Kyiv, supported by the Koret Foundation, Taube Foundation and Jewish Community Endowment Fund of San Francisco.
- Hosted weeklong advocacy training seminar in Washington, D.C. for Jewish students from Moscow and American University, with Washington, D.C. Federation support.

### NCSJ LEADERSHIP MISSIONS

- Weeklong mission in May to Russia, Ukraine and Latvia, led by NCSJ Chairman and President and Executive Committee members.
- Weeklong Jewish National Fund President's Council Mission to Moscow in November, co-led by NCSJ.



NCSJ President Alexander Smukler.