

Dear Chancellor Eisen,

I am writing to protest the Conservative movement's stance on patrilineal descent and to urge you to work toward the acceptance of patrilineal descent by all Jewish organizations and Israel. The measure of a society can be made by the treatment of its children and, unfortunately, Jewish society is lacking in this area. There can be no crueller act than separating a parent and child. None of us likes to see ourselves as immoral, but sometimes it helps to use others as examples. To illustrate what this vile, evil practice does to innocent children, I will use another ethnic group in place of Jews in an analogy. Suppose a white man had a child with a black woman. As the child grew up, it's father and it's father's family said to it that there were some family activities that it couldn't participate in because they don't let black people do them. They also tell it that it can't be buried in the family cemetery because they don't let black people be buried there. But, they say that it can do those things if it undergoes some treatment and bleaches it's skin and straightens its hair. I think you would say that that family was abusing that child in a filthy way. This is what is done to patrilineal Jewish children.

In order to correct this, I request you do the following:

Firstly, immediately require all your members, both American and international, to recognize patrilineal descent or be excommunicated. The Conservative movement's stance is completely hypocritical, as it doesn't require it's adherents to follow halacha in anything else. Additionally, your conversions aren't recognized by the Orthodox-Inquisitional courts in Israel anyway, so I don't know what you think you're proving by requiring patrilineal Jews to undergo this meaningless ceremony.

Secondly, it must issue a public statement apologizing to patrilineal Jews for it's past treatment of them and condemning Orthodox Jews and Israel for continuing this evil practice.

Thirdly, it must change its educational curriculum to teach the true historical background of the issue. That is to say, that throughout history at least up until the times of the Gemara this custom was not in place and was actually the opposite, that the father usually determined the Jewish status of the child. It is important that people understand this so that they do not think that accepting patrilineal descent is merely giving in to modern times. Additionally, you should stop taking children in your Hebrew schools to shabbatons and other activities with Chabad and any other Orthodox organizations. This legitimizes these movements and sends the wrong message to these children.

Fifthly, it must not allow it's Rabbis to participate in conversion councils in Israel for patrilineal Jews and stop participating in marriage ceremonies with Orthodox rabbis because the couple is fearful that their marriage won't be recognized in Israel. If you're not good enough for them, let the couple be Orthodox.

Lastly, it must help to cut off funding sources to Orthodox Jewish organizations, especially Chabad by identifying their corporate funding sources and distributing this information in your congregations to ask for a boycott of these companies. One of the biggest donors to Chabad is Ronald Perelman, the CEO of Revlon and a major shareholder in Newscorp. So there are two brand names already to start with.

The Orthodox community is a small minority of Jews. There is no reason that it should be able to dictate religious practice to the majority. Israel needs all the friends it can get and you should not be afraid to stand up to it. The Orthodox community is a financial burden to them and it needs you more than you need them. It is never easy to do the right thing and excuses are for those who use them . The continued attitude of the Jewish community that "some day" it will happen is unacceptable. Changes don't just happen. They require willful action.

Sincerely,