



NCSJ

40 Years of Leadership & Communal Responsibility

Highlights 2012

Once more we see the specter of anti-Semitism. Over ten percent of voters in Ukraine's recent parliamentary elections supported the anti-Semitic, ultra-nationalist *Svoboda* party. Even more disturbing, the leading opposition group has signed a cooperation agreement with *Svoboda*.



October 2012: At a nationalist rally in Kyiv, a *Svoboda* banner proclaims that "The strength of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army-Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists will protect the interests of the masses."



December 1987: "Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews" rally on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

The Year Was 1987...

Twenty-five years ago on Sunday, December 6th, two hundred fifty thousand people marched in Washington to free Soviet Jewry. It was scarcely imaginable then that the Soviet empire would collapse and that thriving Jewish communities would grow across the length and breadth of the former Soviet Union. Yet it happened.

In a vast region that remains important to the United States and to Israel, the countries of the former Soviet Union are home to the world's third-largest concentration of Jews. NCSJ needs your support to foster collaboration with Jewish communities there, and cooperation between the governments of the former Soviet republics and the United States and Israel.



May 2012: NCSJ and other Jewish organizations meet with U.S. Senate leaders.

Highlights of 2012

U.S. Government

- Advised National Security Council and U.S. State Department officials on regional politics and issues such as property restitution and combating anti-Semitism
- Led community effort to graduate Russia and Moldova from the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, and initiated graduation process for Kazakhstan
- Worked to uphold Lautenberg Refugee Act to aid Jewish emigrants from former Soviet states
- Testified on anti-Semitism before the U.S. Helsinki Commission
- Sped passage of a bill to posthumously grant Raoul Wallenberg the Congressional Gold Medal

U.S. Community Outreach

- Arranged meetings for member agencies and partners with senior government officials from the former Soviet region
- Supported local and national efforts to commemorate 1987's "Freedom Sunday for Soviet Jews" rally
- Consulted with Federation and JCRC directors at the JCPA Plenum and JFNA General Assembly
- Helped Jewish secondary school to recruit students from former Soviet states

Russia

- Battled bureaucratic obstructions and new restrictive laws targeting international nonprofits
- Sought government support for stronger international sanctions against Iran
- Hosted Russian Jewish Congress leadership delegation in Washington, meeting with U.S. government, diplomats, and Jewish leaders

Azerbaijan

- Supported the U.S. presidential directive to aid Azerbaijan, an ally of Israel in the Muslim world

Ukraine

- Challenged the national political establishment to reject *Svoboda's* anti-Semitic platform
- Monitored and responded to anti-Semitic incidents at the local level
- Regularly met with the Ambassador and other senior diplomats on Jewish community concerns
- Facilitated synagogue restoration efforts

Lithuania

- Fought government bid to posthumously honor World War II-era prime minister who persecuted Jews
- Opposed commemorations for nationalists who collaborated with Nazis
- Supported new restitution law providing US\$50 million to Holocaust survivors and Jewish communal groups

Latvia

- Advised government officials on promoting and combating challenges to restitution laws
- Urged new government to continue policy of opposing Waffen SS commemorations

International Outreach

- Met with Prime Minister Netanyahu and senior Knesset members during NCSJ leadership mission to Israel
- Participated in annual Conference of Presidents leadership mission to Israel
- Took part in European Shoah Legacy Institute conference on Jewish property restitution
- Advocated for Jewish community interests, support for Israel, and sanctions against Iran with foreign leaders at UN General Assembly opening



NCSJ