

## **Code of Conduct for Masorti Judaism Rabbis in the UK**

*Approved by the Masorti rabbinical team and reviewed by Masorti Judaism's board of trustees,  
December 2019*

This is intended as a brief note outlining key standards, for reference by communities employing, or intending to employ rabbis.

### **1. In General**

Masorti Judaism rabbis and visiting rabbis are the public face of Masorti Judaism in this country. Their conduct will inevitably come under scrutiny. [1]

Masorti rabbis are expected to be observant Jews, living a life guided by Jewish Law as understood by the Conservative/Masorti movement, within the guidelines of halakhic practice as determined by the Halakhah Committees of the International Rabbinical Assembly of North America and Israel. Their rulings offer a band-width of practice, within which all Masorti rabbis are expected to conduct themselves.

### **2. Shabbat and Festivals**

The following are intended to serve only as basic headings. Rabbis are expected to observe Shabbat and Yom Tov in public and private, including (specifically but not solely)

- Not driving or using motorised transport
- Not shopping or using money
- Not cooking on Shabbat

Therefore any congregation employing a rabbi must be able to provide either accommodation and kitchen facilities or hospitality at a reasonable walking distance from where it meets.

### **3. Kashrut**

Rabbis are expected to observe a code of kashrut in public and private. This may vary from strictly vegan or vegetarian to consuming only hechshered products.

Community kitchens need to abide by the standards set by the rabbi or, in cases of a rabbinic team, the rabbi appointed as *Mara de'Atra*, the community's decision-making rabbi with regard to these halakhic issues.

### **4. Personal Status**

While do not perform intermarriage marriage ceremonies, we do welcome interfaith couples and encourage them to engage with our communities and deepen their affiliation to Judaism.

### **5. Selection Process**

It is expected that, prior to being offered employment by a Masorti Judaism community, rabbinical candidates meet one of the senior rabbis and members of the Masorti Judaism rabbinic team. Communities would be expected to take any guidance or observations following such meetings into account when deciding whether to offer a post.

### **6. UK Employment Law**

Congregations and rabbis are expected to abide by the standards of UK employment law.

[1] The title 'rabbi' will be used only in relation to individuals holding rabbinic ordination from a properly accredited seminary or training programme recognised by the Senior Rabbi and Av Bet Din.