

October 19, 2015

Her Excellency Ms. Irina Bokova
Director-General
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
7, place de Fontenoy
75352 Paris 07 SP
France

Dear Madame Director-General,

On behalf of B'nai B'rith International, we are writing to express our outrage over an absurd resolution that has been submitted to the Executive Board of UNESCO for a vote. The resolution, entitled, "Occupied Palestine," includes, among its many outright distortions of realities on the ground, an utterly baffling section which states that the Western Wall (known as the Kotel, in Hebrew), the sole still-standing remnant of the Temple in Jerusalem, is an "integral part of the Al-Aqsa Mosque."

Since the destruction of Second Temple over 2000 years ago, Jews have looked to the Kotel with hope for the rebirth of sovereignty in our ancient homeland. We have put notes in the crevices of the wall with prayers. The connection between the Jewish people and the Kotel is strong, and eternal.

For UNESCO, the entity of the United Nations charged with preserving the cultural heritage of humanity, to pass a resolution that so blatantly disregards history would be an open affront to Judaism and the Jewish people. The creeping but undisguised historical revisionism and territorial, cultural and civilizational appropriation taking root at UNESCO - culminating in this vile effort to, plainly, rob Jews and Judaism even of the Kotel - should make clear which side in the conflict is truly inciting religious tensions and seeking to alter the status quo in Jerusalem.

The passage of a resolution with such malicious intent would have disastrous and irreparable consequences for the reputation and credibility of UNESCO. We urgently ask you to use your voice to help bring the Executive Board back from the abyss.

Sincerely,

Allan J. Jacobs
President

Daniel S. Mariaschin
Executive Vice President