

Раввин Берл Лазар

Главный раввин России



שלמה דובער פינחס לאזאר

הרב הראשי לרוסיה

12 September 2021

**Honorable Daniel Andrews
Premier of Victoria**

Dear Mr. Premier,

On behalf of over a million Jews of Russia, I am writing in support of our fellow Jews in Victoria to urgently take their request seriously and make allowances in the law to enable them to gather safely for communal prayer on the holiest day of the Jewish calendar, Yom Kippur, which begins at sunset this Wednesday.

Orthodox Jews around the world, and indeed all people of faith, are taking note of the plight of the people of Melbourne, who have been subjected to some of the most strict Covid restrictions in the world, and in particular note the inconsistencies in regard to the basic religious needs of Orthodox Jews and how they are not deemed essential, in contrast to categories in sport, arts and business who are allowed to gather safely when considered essential.

We hope and pray that you will realize the significance of your decision and how it impacts your image all around the world.

With warmest wishes for much success in all your endeavors and that the Almighty should bless you and all the people of Australia for a year filled with happiness and much health.

Sincerely yours,

Berel Lazar

Chief Rabbi of Russia.