

# WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

RONALD S. LAUDER  
PRESIDENT

H.E.  
Mrs. Ingrida Simonyte  
Prime Minister of Lithuania  
Gedimino pr. 53  
1109 Vilnius  
Lithuania

New York, 21 October 2021

Dear Prime Minister Simonyte,

I am writing to express my sincere gratitude for the refusal of Lithuania to take part in the commemoration of the 20-year anniversary of the Durban conference. I feel strongly that any event intended to provide an endorsement of the Durban process would only have served to legitimize previous conferences without acknowledging their discriminatory and prejudicial elements.

Other nations will hopefully be inspired and choose to follow the example you have set by your unambiguous rejection of the overt antisemitism and disproportionate focus on Israel that has marred the entire Durban process from the beginning and unfortunately still plagues several United Nations forums.

Indeed, disassociation sends a truly powerful message to the entire international community that the UN General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and any policies and processes intended to combat hate must be unbiased and inclusive of all minorities, including Jews.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to express my appreciation of the close relationship between Lithuania and Israel, as well as the deep respect and friendship you have demonstrated towards the Jewish community.

Very truly yours,



CC: Faina Kukliansky, President of the Jewish Community of Lithuania