

Rabbi Dr. Ratzon Arusi

Rabbi Arusi is the chief rabbi of Kiryat Ono, a member of the Chief Rabbinate Council, a doctor of law and an expert on Jewish jurisprudence.

He was educated at Yeshivat HaDarom in Rehovot and afterward continued his studies at Yeshivat Chevron in Jerusalem, where he began his rabbinic career and served in the IDF as a military chaplain. In addition to his knowledge, wisdom and profound grasp of both Jewish and Israeli civil jurisprudence, he made a major contribution toward elevating Jewish law by integrating the world of Torah and the Rabbinate with the world of contemporary law and judicial research. Because of his intimate knowledge of Jewish jurisprudence, he has served for several years as a lecturer in Jewish jurisprudence at the Tel Aviv University Law Faculty and lectures regularly at Bar-Ilan University and other places.

For decades, the rabbi has dedicated his life to the implementation of Jewish law in modern life. Within the framework of the local rabbinate, he set up a rabbinical court for financial law and was also involved in establishing similar courts for other rabbinates and religious councils throughout Israel.

As part of his rabbinical work, Rabbi Arusi established the Mishnat Rambam Institute which deals primarily with the study of Maimonides' legal works, with an emphasis on the study of Jewish jurisprudence in general and financial law in particular.

The aim of the Institute is the practical application of Torah to the State of Israel in modern times, and strengthening the Jewish public's connection to it.

By his landmark initiatives, Rabbi Ratzon Arusi has made an invaluable contribution to the study of Jewish jurisprudence and its integration into general Israeli law.

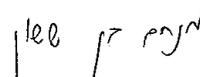
He has proved that financial law is one of the most important and outstanding issues in which Jewish jurisprudence can contribute to general law and to the wide public in a modern Jewish state.

In addition to dealing with Jewish customs and law in his discussions on the weekly Torah portion, Rabbi Arusi has broken new ground in presenting the Jewish worldview as they relate to the State laws as well as the future Jewish monarchy when God's Presence will return to Zion. He provides a Jewish legal response to the challenges of contemporary life enabling a modern religious Jewish way of life, as well as contributing to the Jewish character of the modern State of Israel.

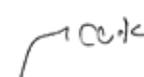
For nearly thirty years, Rabbi Arusi is the initiator, organizer and driving force of the annual World Conference on Jewish Financial Law. The conference is devoted to an in-depth and clear halachic analysis of current and contemporary issues on the public agenda by first-rate rabbis, rabbinical judges and halachic experts who provide backing and support for his important path and work.

His oral and written lectures and responsas have given him a world-renowned reputation as an expert in Torah law. His dealings with every person, whoever they are, are graced by humility, warmth, and eloquence. Many have been inspired by his insightfulness and impressive deeds.

In consideration of all the above, the selection committee has decided to award Rabbi Dr. Ratzon Arusi the Katz Prize for 2019.



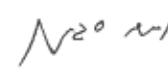
Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson



Rabbi Aryeh Stern



Rabbi Shlomo Dichovski



Rabbi Haim Sabato