



KARAITE JEWS OF EUROPE

APPLICATION FOR CONVERSION TO KARAITE JUDAISM/JOINING THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

**PLEASE READ THIS PACK CAREFULLY,
UNDERSTANDING ALL THAT IS REQUIRED, BEFORE
FILLING OUT AND SUBMITTING YOUR
APPLICATION.**

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1. BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION.

Education:

The potential convert must have undertaken a period of tuition in Karaite Judaism under an instructor, or instructing body, whose course is recognised by the Karaite Council of Sages in Israel. Evidence is required.

Circumcision:

All male potential converts who have not been fully circumcised, have the responsibility to schedule and cover the expense of circumcision by a medical professional. All male minor children of potential converts wishing to convert must also be fully circumcised. Circumcisions must be carried out prior to submitting the application and must be verified by a letter from a GP, Urologist, or Mohel. This letter must be submitted with the application.

Tattoo Removal:

For potential converts who have religious/cultic tattoos, please be aware they will need to be removed to the best of the current medical procedure (i.e., such procedures might leave a slight residue outline of the tattoo) prior to the conversion ceremony. Cost of removal is paid by potential converts.

Name Change:

Potential converts with a personal name or family name associated with another religion (e.g., Christopher, Krishna, Mohammed, etc) have the responsibility to cover the expense of legally changing their name prior to submitting their application. This applies to converting children as well. Neutral non-Jewish names (e.g., William, Robert) do not need to be legally changed.

Taking a Hebrew Name:

All potential converts must choose a Hebrew name which is to be entered into their application. However, unlike potential converts with pagan names, they are not obliged to perform a legal name change. These names will be used on the Conversion Certificates.

Couples:

Couples must convert together. In the event where one party of the couple refuses to convert together or separately, then neither can convert, or the party desiring to convert must separate from the party that refuses to convert.

Minor Children (under the age of 18):

Minor children (under the age of 18), if they decide to convert, can be converted along with the parents on a case-by-case basis. Male minor children must be circumcised; female minor children have no special requirements. Conversion of minors requires the advanced written consent of both parents and the advanced written consent of minors aged 10 years or older.

When children living in the household turn 18 before the conversion ceremony, they will not be able to convert under their parent's "Certificate of Completion" and will have to take any necessary education course independently.

2. BEFORE THE CONVERSION CEREMONY.

Meeting with a Representative of the Converting Community:

All potential converts must be interviewed by a representative of the Karaite Jews of Europe. This may require travelling significant distances at the potential convert's expense.

3. PROCESS OF CONVERSION.

A. The convert must enter into the religion out of love of the religion and faith in the God of Israel and His holy Tora, in truth and innocence, in order to join with the Jewish people and to behave according to the Karaite way, in faith and honesty.

B. The convert must be an adult, having mental facilities and understand what it is he/she intends to do, and minors will be guided by their parents and they will educate them according to the Tora and their association with their Judaism.

C. The conversion must be of free will, not forced, not coerced, and not obligated, not threatened, and the conversion shall not be conditional upon the giving of benefits or the prevention of benefits.

D. The convert shall declare in writing that he/she has a sincere intent and a sincere will to receive upon him or herself the yoke of the Tora, to study the Tora, and to do the Tora's positive and negative commandments.

E. A couple that is converting must go through a new marriage ceremony.

F. Couples must convert together. In the event where one party of the couple refuses to convert together or separately, then neither can convert, or the party desiring to convert must separate from the party that refuses to convert.

4. CONVERSION CEREMONY.

After the completion of a recognised course the potential convert will determine whether they desire to continue in the way of the light and will merit the Glory of the honourable creator, in the kindness of His goodness and greatness of His grace. If the answer is indeed positive, they will participate in a two-day conversion ceremony.

i. All male potential converts must be fully circumcised prior to their conversion ceremony.

ii. The Washing and Changing of Clothes.

iii. **A Day of Fasting** (in place of offering a sacrifice). The fast will end with a festive evening prayer with the participation of the teaching staff and the holy community that accepts him/her as a convert in happiness and kindness.

iv. Just as the groom obligates himself to the bride and swears, and the bride obligates herself to the groom at the time of the Huppa, so too the convert will go through a ritual of entering into the spiritual world by way of **a declaration (oath)** which shall

be formatted in a manner similar to a Kethuva, wherein he shall sign upon it and it shall be confirmed by the Beth Din of the converting community. The convert shall read the declaration or convention, make a blessing over wine and the appropriate blessings and these matters shall be certified in writing by way of declaration of the Beth Din of the Karaite Jews of Europe.

v. Converting couples must go through a new marriage ceremony.

5. WHAT DOES THE CONVERT RECEIVE AFTER CONVERSION.

i. Joining YHWH and His people Israel.

ii. Recognition as Karaite Jews by Karaite Jewish institutions everywhere. This will be important when children of converts look for a Karaite Jewish spouse or if the convert desires to participate in Karaite communal activities, their voice will count in shaping the future of Karaite Judaism.

iii. Recognition as Jews by the State of Israel. This is important with regards to 'Aliya for both the convert and for their children, as well as for the convert's future grandchildren. Living in Israel is a fulfilment of biblical prophecy and brings us closer to the Redemption.

iv. Recognition as Jews by the Gentile world that accepts the State of Israel's definition of "Who is a Jew". This will provide the convert with the same rights as other Jews living in Gentile countries.

APPLICATION CONSIDERATION CHECK LIST.

- ❑ Carefully read the entire Application Pack more than once to understand what is required of you.
- ❑ Understand that if you are approved for conversion, you will need to travel to Eglisau, Switzerland for a two-day conversion ceremony.
- ❑ Understand that you must be interviewed by a representative of the Karaite Jews of Europe prior to appearing before the Beth Din in Eglisau.
- ❑ Understand that a non-Jew married to a fellow non-Jew must convert together with his/her spouse.
- ❑ Understand that spouses converting together must take part in a wedding renewal ceremony that takes place at the end of the two-day conversion ceremony, this will require 2 wedding rings (one for the husband and one for the wife).
- ❑ Understand minor children (under the age of 18) can be converted, if they so desire, along with the parents on a case-by-case basis. Males must be circumcised; females have no special requirements. Conversion of minors requires the written consent of both parents and minors 10 years or older.
- ❑ When children living in the household turn 18 before the conversion ceremony, they cannot be converted under their parent's Conversion Certificate.
- ❑ For potential converts who have tattoos, please be aware that all tattoos need to be removed to the best of the current medical procedure prior to the conversion ceremony. Cost of removal is paid by potential converts.
- ❑ Understand that conversion is not to be taken lightly. Once a gentile joins the ranks of the People of Israel, they are obliged to keep the Tora in its entirety. Conversion is a one-way door, there is NO going back. If the convert forsakes the Tora turning their back upon the Children of Israel YHWH will not judge them lightly. Conversion means becoming a part of the Jewish people for better or for worse. Jews have been persecuted for thousands of years, and many a nation has tried to exterminate the Jewish people. One should be aware that conversion means becoming part of a persecuted people, knowing that one day the convert might find themselves in a situation similar to the one that Jews found themselves in the Holocaust.
- ❑ Understand that no one may attempt 'Aliya (immigration to Israel) until 1 year after his/her conversion. If one desires to make 'Aliya at the end of this period they must work through Universal Karaite Judaism to facilitate form preparation, etc.
- ❑ Understand that the Karaite Jews of Europe reserves the right to conduct background checks on potential converts. I therefore grant absolute permission to the community to carry out a full background check upon myself, by means of any agencies that they deem necessary.

APPLICATION CHECK LIST.

- ❑ After having read the *Application Pack* and having taken into consideration the financial and religious obligations required, print the Application Form and fill out in **black ink only** and in **capitals**.
- ❑ Print the *Application Check List* placing a tick in each applicable box once the task is complete and send in with the application.
- ❑ Remember to sign and date the *Application Form* in the space provided.
- ❑ Complete the *Family Tree* form **printing legibly** in **black ink only** (using a separate form for a spouse, if applicable), and send in with the application.
- ❑ Please keep a scanned copy of your *Application Form* and *Family Tree*.
- ❑ Please attach to your Application Form in the space provided a *standard coloured passport photo*, must include head and shoulders.
- ❑ Please include a **colour copy of a government photo ID for each person applying** (such as a driver's license, passport, or identity card). Remember to use separate applications and identifications for married couples or your application will be considered incomplete.
- ❑ Please provide a *stamped copy of marriage certificate or divorce decree*, if applicable. This should be a stamped version (True' copy) from the county/district of issue.
- ❑ Please provide a copy of your *letter from a GP, Urologist, or Mohel*, verifying circumcisions, if applicable.
- ❑ Please mail your:
 - ❑ Application Check List,
 - ❑ Completed and signed Application Form with a standard coloured passport photo attached,
 - ❑ Completed Family Tree,
 - ❑ Colour copy of a government photo ID for each person applying,
 - ❑ Stamped copy of marriage certificate or divorce decree, if applicable,
 - ❑ A copy of your letter from a GP, Urologist, or Mohel, verifying circumcisions, if applicable.
- ❑ To:
Karaite Jews of Europe
Obergasse 2
8139 Eglisau
Switzerland



KARAITE JEWS OF EUROPE

APPLICATION FORM FOR CONVERSION TO KARAITE JUDAISM

MARRIED INDIVIDUALS NEED TO FILL OUT SEPARATE APPLICATION FORMS.

Please attach
standard colour

passport photo

must include

head & shoulders

BEFORE FILLING OUT THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION PACK. THE APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETED IN BLACK INK AND IN CAPITALS. THERE ARE FOUR ALPHABETICALLY LABELLED SECTIONS TO THE APPLICATION, EACH SECTION NEEDS TO BE COMPLETED TO THE BEST OF ONE'S ABILITY. PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU SIGN AT THE END OF THE APPLICATION. IF YOU NEED EXTRA SPACE FOR ANY OF THE QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTINUE ON A SEPARATE SHEET OF PAPER MARKING CLEARLY THE QUESTION BEING REFERENCED AND ATTACH TO YOUR APPLICATION.

Section A Personal Details

1. Surname or Family name:

2. First name/s:

3. Hebrew Name if any:

4. Please report all name changes, including maiden name of married female or other legal or court ordered name changes:

5. Nationality:

6. Gov't. ID # (specify):

7. Date of Birth: **D/** **M/** **Y/**

8. Place of Birth:

9. Gender: **Male** **Female**

10. Address:			
11. Mailing address (if different from above):			
12. Contact phone number		Home:	
		Work:	
		Mobile:	
13. Preferred Email addresses:			
14. Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Married	<input type="checkbox"/> Divorced	<input type="checkbox"/> Separated
	<input type="checkbox"/> Widowed	<input type="checkbox"/> Single	Other:
15. Living Situation: please indicate whether you are:			
<input type="checkbox"/> living alone, <input type="checkbox"/> living with roommate/s, <input type="checkbox"/> living with family, <input type="checkbox"/> in a relationship living with that partner, <input type="checkbox"/> in a relationship, but not living with that partner			
Use this space to further explain your living situation, if needed.			
16. Native Language (If other than English):			
17. Occupation or Profession:			
18. If male, are you circumcised?			
19. Do you have any tattoos or religious symbols etched into your skin?			
20. Are you a member of the Karaite Jews of Europe?			
21. PARTNER'S DETAILS			
Surname or Family name:			
First name/s:			
Hebrew Name:			
If married female, indicate maiden name:			
Nationality:			

Gov't. ID # (specify):				
Date of Birth	D/	M/	Y/	
Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Male		<input type="checkbox"/> Female	
Native Language (If other than English):				
Occupation or Profession:				
If male, is he circumcised?				
Do they have any tattoos or religious symbols etched into their skin?				
Are they a member of the Karaite Jews of Europe?				
22. PLEASE LIST YOUR AND/OR YOUR PARTNER'S CHILDREN, IF ANY				
Birth Name/Hebrew Name:	Date of Birth D/M/Y	Gender	If male: circumcised?	With whom does the child live?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

Section B
Religious Background

1. What religious group/s have you identified yourself with in the past?

2. What religious group/s did your parents/guardians identify with?

3. Have you ever considered converting to any other religious group/s? If yes, please specify.

4. Do you have your own website that reflects your religious beliefs?

5. Is there anyone in your family's background who referred to themselves as a Karaite?

6. Do you believe that YHWH is the one and only God, Who has no form, companion, partner, or offspring? If not sure, please explain.

7. Do you believe in any form of polytheism, pantheism, dualism, or trinitarianism? If yes, please explain.

8. Do you believe in the Tanakh in its entirety as the sole religious authority to the exclusion of all other writings? Clarification: Tanakh, also called "Miḵrā" or "Ḳārā" refers to what Christians erroneously call the "Old Testament", in Hebrew: Genesis through Chronicles (in the English order from Genesis through Malachi) **If not sure, please explain.**

9. Do you believe that any of the books of the Tanakh are not divinely authored and/or inspired? If yes, please specify.

10. Do you believe in the Documentary Hypothesis (source criticism)? Clarification: The Documentary Hypothesis states that the Tōrā is composed of several documents written several centuries apart from each other which were then combined by an editor/redactor.

11. Do you believe in the Ḳabbala or any other esoteric teachings?

12. Do you believe in any prophet outside of the Tanakh? If yes, please explain.

13. Do you believe Jesus/Yesu/Yesua/Yahshua etc. is a god/messiah/prophet/righteous teacher, other? If yes, please explain.

14. Do you believe that Mohammad was a prophet of any kind?

15. Do you aspire of living in Israel?

16. Do you work with any non-kosher foods?

17. Do you work on the Shabbath?

18. From what you know about Karaite Judaism, are there any issues that you disagree with?

Section C Conversion

1. Are you currently in the process of converting to another branch of Judaism? If yes, please specify.

2. Do you intend to adhere to the commandants of the Tora and lead an observant life?

3. Why do you desire to convert through Ḳaraite Judaism rather than Rabbanite Judaism? Tell us something about your background, i.e., your previous religious affiliation/s and your spiritual journey, in other words, how and why you came to Ḳaraite Judaism.

Section D Educational Background

1. Please tell us about your general education:

Name of high school:	Year completed:	Did you graduate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Name of college:	Year completed:	Did you graduate? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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2. Please tell us about your formal Jewish education, if any:

3. Have you undertaken a period of tuition in Karaite Judaism under an instructor, or instructing body, whose course is recognised by the Karaite Council of Sages in Israel? If yes, please specify.

4. Please tell us anything else that you feel is important to disclose:

I understand that there is a non-refundable processing fee of 100.00 CHF (Swiss Francs) per application. The processing fee will be billed upon receipt of a FULLY COMPLETED application. Application forms that are incomplete will not be processed. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted by the conversion and affiliation committee.

Applicant's Signature:

Date: