



## Introductory Notes to Mechirat Chametz

### Sale of Chametz 5780/2020

**Torah Law** prohibits both the consumption and ownership of Chametz during Pesach (beginning at midday on the 14th of Nissan). **Rabbinic Law** mandates that Chametz owned by a Jew during Pesach may not be consumed even after Pesach. One must therefore ensure that all Chametz products are consumed, destroyed, disowned or sold before the prohibition comes into effect at **11:37am on Wednesday 8 April 2020**. **Please note that Chametz may not be eaten after 10:12am on that day.** (These are London times.)

Among the recommended methods of expunging Chametz is to sell it to a gentile in a manner that is legally valid and binding in both Jewish and English law. The Chametz is then stored in a designated secure room or cupboard that is rented out to the gentile. Provided the sale conforms to the necessary Halachic and legal requirements, the Chametz products become the property of the Gentile purchaser, avoiding the transgression of Jewish ownership of Chametz over Pesach (as well as any resulting prohibition after Pesach). At the end of Pesach, assuming the Gentile owner agrees, the Chametz may be repurchased.

Owing to the complexity of the Halachic requirements involved, it is customary to designate one's Rabbi to make the sale on one's behalf to ensure its validity and authenticity.

#### **Please note:**

- Any Chametz to be sold must be stored in designated rooms or cupboards. The area containing the Chametz may not be accessed throughout Pesach.
- It is correct, if possible, to include a rough listing of the products to be sold as well as an **approximate total value**.
- Arrangements to purchase the Chametz back from the Gentile will not be effected until an hour after Yom Tov concludes in London on **16 April @ 8:54pm**. Please bear this in mind if you will be in Israel for Yom Tov, as until this time, the Chametz remains the property of the Gentile. If you are travelling to a time zone behind the UK (e.g. USA), please consult with me.
- The sale will actually take effect at around **9:00am on Wednesday 8 April**. The above-mentioned preparations should be completed by that time.

I may be contacted on 07415 305 253 or at [rsimon@keshar.org.uk](mailto:rsimon@keshar.org.uk) to answer questions about the sale of chametz or any other Pesach-related matter.

Best wishes for a joyous and redemptive Pesach.

Rabbi Rashi Simon



**POWER OF ATTORNEY**

I.....hereby appoint and fully empower Rabbi Rashi Simon to act as my agent to sell all *Chametz* and *Chametz*-related products (as defined in the *sh'tar harsha'ah*\*) in my possession as on Wednesday 8 April 2020 at 9:00am. The following is a partial listing of the items to be sold:

.....  
.....  
.....

I/WE WILL BE SPENDING PESACH IN (circle as appropriate) UK ISRAEL OTHER.  
If OTHER, please specify.....

Approximate total value: £..... (please remember to include spirits, though it is better to under- rather than overestimate *chametz* values).

I wish to have the designated premises where the *Chametz* is stored, leased out by Rabbi Simon on my behalf. These include (cupboard, room or storage area, etc.)

.....  
at the following (residential and business) address(es):  
.....  
.....

Contact phone number.....

I hereby authorise Rabbi Simon to act on my behalf and empower him to do all that is required, to make such a sale valid both in English and Jewish law. I also make any Agreement of Sale (*sh'tar m'chirah*) that he may use for this purpose, part of this authorisation.

SIGNED..... DATE...../...../2020.

While it is best to carry out this formal "instruction" in person, this form can also be submitted electronically to [connect@keshher.org.uk](mailto:connect@keshher.org.uk), or delivered to 933 Finchley Road NW11 7PE. Please do so by **5:00pm Monday 6 April 2020**.

\*The document describing the sale of *Chametz*