Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with different approaches to transgender issues within the three, or more precisely four, main denominations of contemporary Judaism, orthodox – and ultra-orthodox – conservative and reform. These approaches are gradually presented and compared primarily on the basis of responses, resolutions, and other documents issued by institutions or authorities of individual denominations. In order to reflect the current situation as much as possible, I also drew from articles that concern transgender issues in Judaism and have been published on online news sites in recent years. Other important sources that were used include texts of rituals and blessings created specifically for transgender Jews, information from websites of organizations that support transgender Jews and from websites of individual Jewish congregations, and selected specialized literature. In addition, the thesis also contains two significant sections dealing with gender perception in traditional Jewish texts, i.e. Tanach and Rabbinic Literature, and in Kabbalah. At the end of the thesis there is an appendix attached – Glossary of used terms, which are particularly employed within the frame of transgender issues. Without explanation of these terms the text might not be comprehensible.