

I, Julia Nussbaum, will give evidence and say as follows:

I came to England as a refugee from Hungary in 1960 and married in 1962. I live at 2 Goodyers Gardens in Hendon.

I began to suffer from Multiple Sclerosis in the early 70's and have been confined to a wheel chair for the last ten years.

My husband, Alan, and I have three children, two sons and a daughter, all of whom are now married.

I am an orthodox Jewess and comply, to the best of my ability, with the traditional code of sabbath observance.

I understand and accept that carrying is forbidden on sabbath outside my home or in a public area not defined by an eruv and this prohibition extends to someone pushing me in my wheel-chair.

I know that sabbath laws are suspended for any critical medical emergency but not for my personal convenience.

The Sabbath is the one day on which it is natural to see family and friends and attend synagogue services. Other days of the week are no substitute as people are busy working or enjoying activities in which I cannot participate.

In practice I am trapped in my home from sunset on Friday until nightfall on Saturday night.

I cannot visit my children or friends for a meal. Since they cannot reciprocate, there is a limit to how often they will accept my hospitality and it means that I am doing all the entertaining and never enjoying being entertained.

I cannot go to the Synagogue which is only about 100 yards from my home.

I cannot be taken to Hendon park which is around the corner. I feel this particularly in the interminably long summer days and I suffer a double disability.

A few months ago, my younger son got married. He was honoured as a groom in the synagogue on the sabbath before the wedding. It is a wonderful ceremony in which the family and community all join in. I could not even attend. By contrast, when my other son, Daniel was married in New York, where there is an Eruv, I was there too.

I am aware that there is a remedy prescribed by the Rabbis over the centuries and in effect in many places in the world today. The Eruv would enable me to live a fuller life and enjoy my family and friends and attend Synagogue services.

I know that nobody wants any unnecessary street clutter but I cannot believe that it will disturb anybody to the same extent as it will benefit me and others in my situation.