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Chigwell also disinvites organ-donor campaigner

THE ORGAN-donor campaigner whose invitation to speak at Immanuel College was withdrawn following pressure from a London Beth Din dayan, has now been disinvited by Chigwell and Hainault Synagogue.

New York-based Robert Berman, a Yeshiva University graduate, is the founder of the Halachic Organ Donor society. It encourages Orthodox Jews to carry an organ-donor card that offers an option to donate organs after the heart stops, the traditional halachic definition of death, or following brain-stem death, using a controversial interpretation accepted by many Orthodox authorities.

Last week the JC reported that the invitation to speak at Immanuel had been withdrawn after consultations between the school and its rabbinical adviser, Dayan Chanoch Ehrentreu.

Mr Berman's invitation to speak at the Chigwell United Synagogue congregation was withdrawn this week after minister Rabbi Baruch Davis consulted Dayan Ehrentreu.

In an email to Mr Berman, board member Tova Hersch said: "I am

very sorry but after [Rabbi Davis's] discussion with Dayan Ehrentreu he feels he cannot argue with him. I am so sorry we are forced to take this decision."

Mr Berman said: "It is unfortunate the Orthodox Jewish community has decided to close its eyes and ears to the issue of organ donation."

Rabbi Davis and Dayan Ehrentreu were unavailable for comment.