

Shaitels

In response to many queries regarding wigs which have hair known to be of Indian origin:

After consulting with senior Rabbonim here and overseas, there still remain numerous doubts regarding the Halachic status of the hair originating from the temples. Therefore the following guidelines are recommended:

- 1) It is well known that the Rebbe זצ"ל strongly urged married women to wear a **full shaitel** rather than a hat, *tiechel* and the like. [In some circles the use of a sheitel was considered as a concession; the Rebbe sees the sheitel as a more effective manner of covering one's hair adequately *l'halocho*, in a manner that one can feel at ease with oneself in any company]. The Rebbe declared that wearing a full *sheitel* – rather than a half-*sheitel* or a *tiechel* - is a source of Divine blessing for one's children and grandchildren.
- 2) Hence, switching to wearing a *tiechel* in public is not an acceptable option;
- 3) Due to the well-known doubts, one should endeavour to avoid using wigs which contain Indian hair. (Should further investigations produce more conclusive decisions one way or the other – these will bl"n be published accordingly);
- 4) A woman who has also a non-Indian wig should wear that one, not the Indian one;
- 5) One who has only a wig that contains Indian hair may continue to wear it until such time that they are able to replace it with a wig that they feel comfortable with;
- 6) Before purchasing a new sheitel, make sure to confirm that it has no known Halachic problems.

In the merit of the righteous women our forefathers were redeemed from Mitzrayim; in the merit of the righteous women of today may Hashem redeem us from this Galus now
Mamosh!