



ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal

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January 21, 2011
16 Shvat 5771

Dear Leaders of Medinat Yisrael,

ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal is the headquarters organization of the global Jewish Renewal Movement. With 45 affiliated communities (including one in Jerusalem), over 150 ordained rabbis, cantors and rabbinic pastors, 5000 members, regular birthright/taglit and other Israel tours, a variety of retreats and several multi-year training and development ventures, ALEPH works joyfully and tirelessly to support the flourishing of klal Yisrael. In all we do, ALEPH affirms and supports the State of Israel.

ALEPH's defining principles call upon us to open to the transformation of consciousness that is made possible by a blessedly emerging feminine power and voice. To this end our communities are egalitarian and we support and affirm the full equality of women and men in all spheres of Jewish life. We affirm and appreciate that likewise, the foundation of the State of Israel rests on a commitment to honor and protect religious freedom and equality for all.

We view the Kotel as a sacred place not for any one stream of Judaism but for all, so we are deeply distressed by the fact that women in Israel are silenced and not permitted to pray aloud at the Kotel while men may use their voices as they wish. This situation is unacceptable. We demand equal rights for Women of the Wall and all Jewish women who wish to pray at the Kotel, as well as for communities of the People Israel who wish to pray at the Kotel with women and men together as equals, raising their voices to Heaven in praise and supplication.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Debra Kolodny
Executive Director and
Rabbi Lori Klein, Board Chair
ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal,
on behalf of the ALEPH Board of Directors