



A Prophetic Voice in Jewish, Multireligious, and American Life

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Dear Leaders of Medinat Yisrael,

As a community organization deeply rooted in the People Israel, The Shalom Center affirms and supports the State of Israel.

We understand the unfolding of Torah in our generation to affirm the full equality of women and men in all spheres of Jewish life, and we understand the foundations of the State of Israel to rest on a commitment of the State and its government to affirm and protect religious freedom and equality for all.

We further view the Kotel as a sacred place not for any one stream of Judaism but for all, reminding all of the yearning of the Shekhinah, Blessed be She, for the reunification of all Holiness in Heaven and on Earth.

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.

With blessings of shalom,

Rabbi Arthur Waskow , director