

Rabbis for Women of the Wall

רבנים למען נשות הכותל



January 20, 2011

Dear Leaders of the State of Israel,

I am writing to support Women of the Wall, and the right of women to raise their voices in prayer at the *Kotel*.

I am a rabbi ordained in the Conservative Movement and I am a passionate, lifelong supporter of the State of Israel. I have studied in Israel and have visited Israel innumerable times. I pray for the peace of Jerusalem every day, and work in every way I can for the well-being of Medinat Yisrael and Am Yisrael. However, discrimination against women, rejection of religious pluralism, and the silencing of women, is a *busha*, an offense against the holiness of the *Kotel* and a violation of our mission as an “*or lagoyim*.” The State of Israel should be leading the way in honoring women’s rights, not catering to religious extremists among our people.

As a student of Jewish tradition and *halachah*, I understand the proscriptions of *kol isha*. I respect the rights of all Jews to worship in the way that speaks most authentically to them. I support a compromise that creates separate space for men who do not want to be exposed to the voice of women, for women who do not want to be exposed to the voice of other women, and for women who wish to worship out loud.

Thank you for your consideration and blessings on all you do for *Am Yisrael u’Medinat Yisrael*.

B’kavod rav,

Rabbi Amy Eilberg
International Vice-Chair
Rabbis for Women of the Wall
Member, Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism

We, the undersigned, add our names and our voices to Rabbi Eilberg’s letter above:

Rabbi Gilah Dror, President, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Julie Schonfeld, Executive Vice President, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Menachem Creditor, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Norman M. Cohen, Central Conference of American Rabbis
Rabbi Toba Spitzer, Past President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
Rabbi Pamela Frydman, Past President, OHALAH, Association of Rabbis for Jewish Renewal
Rabbi Adam Spilker, Central Conference of American Rabbis

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Rabbi Leonard Gordon, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Sheldon Lewis, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Morris Allen, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Michael Adam Latz, Central Conference of American Rabbis
Rabbi David Booth, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Lilly Kaufman, Rabbinical Assembly
Rabbi Harold Kravitz, Rabbinical Assembly
Professor Leslie Morris, University of Minnesota
Rabbi Lilly Kaufman, Rabbinical Assembly
Prof. Riv-ellen Prell, University of Minnesota

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