



Advocacy Update

Sent January 19, 2010

Call For Religious Equality in Israel

Recently we've seen an increase of police pressure on Women of the Wall, such as the arrest of Nofrat Frenkel, a medical student, in late November, for wearing a tallit while praying at the Wall, and this month's interrogation of Anat Hoffman, director of the Israel Religious Action Center and leader of Women of the Wall.

The URJ has brought together resources, including information and recommended action to enable you to respond to this important issue.

To learn more, join a webinar for congregational and sisterhood leaders on Thursday, January 21st, at 1:00 p.m. EST. We'll be joined by Anat Hoffman and Gilat Kariv, director of Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism, who will outline the situation and explain how North American Jews can show support for Women of the Wall and for religious pluralism in Israel.

Because of the urgency of the situation, a brief update on URJ Haiti efforts will be included in the webinar.

Our message is clear: The Kotel belongs not just to one individual, group, or denomination but to all Jews. The treatment of women as they engage in meaningful prayer and ritual undermines the Jewish and democratic values that are so essential to the state of Israel's well-being. For up-to-date information, visit www.urj.org/israel/wow.

Anat Hoffman said recently, "We are pushing the envelope. History is made of moments like this." History is not made at moments of interrogation and disrespect. Join us and help ensure religious and civic equality in Israel.