



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM

How to Speak Out for Repro Rights

The list below is not intended to be an exhaustive list of actions that can be taken. After determining where your priorities lie with your sisterhood or congregation, we encourage you to think creatively about the types of actions you would like to take. Please share them with us on the Yammer Advocacy page with the hashtag - #WRJAbortionRights or #WRJRepro.

- [Review the state legislative tracker.](#)
- Build relationships with abortion justice organizations leading advocacy efforts. Reach out to your Planned Parenthood affiliate, ACLU affiliate, NARAL, state reproductive health, and reproductive justice organizations such as Reproductive Equity Now, Pro-Choice Ohio, URGE, or Pro-Choice North Carolina that succeeded the NARAL state affiliates, or other organizations.
- Plan a WRJ District meeting with state legislators and their staff. This is a great way to build relationships and ensure your priorities are heard.
- Engage with local voting rights, voter registration, redistricting, local elections, judges, and other "Freedom to Vote" actions. Making change on the issue of reproductive health and rights begins at the ballot box.
- Advocate for comprehensive sex education or sex education funding in your local school district. Comprehensive sex education includes information about sex, sexuality, relationships, and contraception. Sex education is directly linked to reproductive health and rights. Without it, individuals cannot make informed decisions about their bodies, sexual activities, or futures.
- Fill out the RAC/WRJ's Action Alert on the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA), Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Act (EACH Act), and [other comprehensive legislation](#) to urge your members of Congress to support abortion access and affordability. You can customize the RAC's template letters (linked above) using your values and personal experiences.

- Sign up for WRJ's e-newsletter, Advocacy Matters, to stay informed about upcoming rallies, events, and phone banking opportunities.

Educational Program Ideas

Here are some ideas to think about engaging your community in educational programming.

Religious Group Collaboration: Collaborate with other religious organizations, Jewish or interfaith. There is a false narrative that "religious people oppose abortion." We know differently- Judaism helps inform our support of abortion and reproductive rights. For example, host an interfaith panel on reproductive health and rights. There are many faith groups to partner with that support reproductive rights and believe in women's moral authority to make such decisions autonomously. The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice has excellent resources for interfaith dialogue on reproductive health, rights, and justice.

Local Providers and Advocates: Providers and advocates for abortion and reproductive health want to hear from you. They are under pressure everywhere. Reach out to your local abortion provider or advocacy network to do a joint education program. Consider working with others in your congregation or across multiple congregations to bring people together around reproductive health and rights. Explore other ways to work or educate together.

Related Advocacy Topics: Provide educational programs about the connection between reproductive health and other rights and areas of advocacy to bring more people to the table. For example, voting rights and political engagement beginning at the local level can serve as related topics because of their direct connection to abortion laws.

Lifelong Learning: Offer a lifelong learning class about what the Torah and Talmud say about reproductive rights. Ask your clergy to speak about reproductive health, rights, and justice from the bimah. Dedicate one Shabbat service as "Repro Shabbat" around the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. This will reduce the stigma and shame surrounding these conversations for so long.

Create safe spaces: Conversation about abortion and many other topics related to reproductive health, including infertility, miscarriage, sex and sexuality education, and more, is

not always easy and sometimes still carries an unwarranted stigma. Create spaces, times, and opportunities in your congregation to share stories and open conversation. Concerning abortion, in particular, some people may believe they don't know anyone [else] who has had an abortion, but statistics show that 1 in 4 women have had one. Healing services, sharing a personal narrative as part of a program, and using the arts are among many ways to create opportunities to share and find we are not alone.

Volunteer & Donate

Host a menstrual hygiene product packing day to deliver to homeless shelters and domestic violence shelters. Many local sisterhoods have been inspired to replicate or engage with the program. The Sisterhood at Congregation Rodeph Sholom in New York, NY, received a 2018 WRJ Or Ami Award for their monthly Days for Girls program, creating reusable menstrual hygiene kits.