



# Advocacy Update

Sent August 11, 2010

Women of the Wall (WOW), distressed about the arrest of Anat Hoffman while holding a Torah and the subsequent misrepresented media images, is calling on Jewish women throughout the world to demonstrate that women hold, read from, and study the Torah and support women's right to pray and read from the Torah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Take action between now and Simchat Torah to stand with WOW:

- Send letters to Israeli decision makers, with personal statements of support, and
- Send pictures of yourself, members of your sisterhood, and women from your congregation holding Torah scrolls to Israeli government and religious leaders.

This can all be done electronically. Full background information, recommendations for action, blessings for participation, and the opportunity to send e-letters to Israeli leaders are available on the WOW website.

Rhoda London, (Ahavath Chesed, Jacksonville, FL), WRJ board alumna, has informed us that her sisterhood is organizing a WOW Take a Stand event as part of the congregation's S'lichot observance. Check with your rabbi about doing so in your congregation or perhaps as part of the Simchat Torah services. WOW hopes to "inundate the Israeli government and religious leaders with 10,000 images of women teaching, study, learning, reading, embracing Torah Scrolls" – let's help them reach their goal.

### **Thomas L. Friedman OP-ED – The Right Kind of Criticism**

Rabbi Rich Kirschen, director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism Anita Saltz International Education Center in Jerusalem, sent us the 8/8/10 OP-ED piece "Steal This Movie" by Thomas L. Friedman. Rabbi Kirschen noted that "This is probably one of the best pieces written about the complexity of the Palestinian Israeli conflict ....in a long time."

Dr. Izzeldin Abulaish, mentioned in the article, spoke movingly of the loss of his daughters during the war in Gaza as part of his keynote address at the WRJ 47th Assembly in Toronto. We thought you would find this article important and of interest.

The film, *Precious Life*, described in the article, was just shown at the Jerusalem Film Festival and is getting great reviews. Watch for its possible screening at your local Jewish film festivals this coming year.