



Advocacy Update

Sent October 17, 2012

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is a time of celebration for Jews—we complete our slew of holidays with a week-long festival full of friends and family, and honor the Torah with a day of singing and dancing. Yet the holidays are also a time to reflect on the world around us.

In the week since Simchat Torah, more than 140,000 emergency hotline calls were made to domestic violence experts and more than 60,000 requests for services went unmet, largely due to lack of funding. One in four women is the victim of severe violence by an intimate partner at some point over the course of her life. One in five woman is a victim of rape.

With these startling statistics in mind, it is now time to turn our attention to another October "holiday"—Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a month to raise awareness about and take action against the horrific atrocities committed against women every day.

Read more on the WRJ blog about ways in which WRJ is helping to fight domestic violence, and for ideas about ways you can get involved in this crucial endeavor.

Food Day: October 24th

Food Day is a nationwide celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food, held every year on October 24th. The Reform Movement is a proud participant in Food Day and has a variety of resources available to help you commemorate the occasion!

WRJ encourages sisterhoods across North America to host their annual opening meals with programs focused on food issues and mindful eating, invite nutritionists or local emergency food service providers to speak, and ask members to bring cans of healthful foods (low salt/low fat/ no high fructose corn syrup) in advance of events. You can use these cans to make table centerpieces, and then donate the food to local providers. Sisterhoods should aim to collect 100 cans (or, multiples of 100!) in honor of WRJ's Centennial.

WRJ's involvement in Food Day builds on decades of commitment to fighting poverty and promoting health and nutrition. Our 2004 Resolution on

Obesity and Nutrition explains "it is incumbent upon the leadership of Women of Reform Judaism to encourage our sisterhoods to recognize the challenge of obesity and inactivity which threatens the health of ourselves, our families, and the people of our nation and to take action to reverse the trend by promoting awareness and improved dietary and physical activity practices."

Attention: Social Action Committee Chairs!

If you're a social action committee chair or member, then this message is for you! Join a Town Hall phone call TONIGHT at 8:00 PM ET to discuss the Reform Movement's upcoming legislative priorities

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home

for the 113th Congress, learn about congregational "Dos and Don'ts" in election year politics, and meet new RAC leaders.