



Advocacy Update

Sent April 4, 2012

Anat Hoffman's Tenth Anniversary with the IRAC

Women of Reform Judaism, its leaders and members, enthusiastically join the North American Reform Jewish Movement in congratulating Anat Hoffman on her tenth anniversary of activist passionate commitment to social justice in Israel with the Israel Religious Action Center. During these ten years, WRJ has worked closely with Anat, enormously appreciating what she has taught us on issues in Israel – women's issues, religious pluralism, and opposition to racism and lack of equality for non-Jewish citizens – and the advocacy opportunities she has provided.

A few excerpts from the letter of congratulations, written by Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President of the Union for Reform Judaism and Rabbi David Saperstein, Director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, follow. We urge you to read the full letter on the [RAC website](#).

Dear Friends of IRAC,

On behalf of the North American Reform Jewish Movement and all people who appreciate equality in Israel, we offer our sincere and hearty congratulations to Anat Hoffman on her 10th anniversary with the Israel religious Action Center. It is a true milestone for this committed Israeli activist. . . .

It is Anat's fiery passion for the issues on which IRAC works that propels her forward in the face of adversity and challenge. When she takes up a cause – be it fighting against segregation in the public sphere or addressing racist incitement by state rabbis – she dedicates her entire self to seeing it through. From the beginning of Anat's career, she knew that women's voices in Israel would stay on the margins if she did not make her own heard. It is no wonder, then, that today, Israeli women ranging from secular to Orthodox look to Anat with thanks and pride as she stands up to the tide of religious extremism that is trying to literally keep them on the back of the bus. . . .

Though Anat has seen important successes in the courts and in the Knesset, she has never been one to rest on her laurels . . . she immediately begins to prepare for the next challenge, whether fighting a bill that would redefine “who is a Jew” or seeking to grant every Israeli the right to marry who they love without coercion from the Rabbinate. Who could have imagined that flooding the segregated bus lines with freedom riders would have yielded such astounding results? . . .

We and the entire North American Reform Movement thank Anat for her enormous dedication to our joint cause of establishing equality and religious freedom for the Jewish State. Her 10 years at IRAC have been marked by enormous struggles and immeasurable successes – and we are confident that in the years to come, she will persist in fighting the good fight for social justice. . . .

Sincerely,

Rabbi Rick Jacobs, President (Union for Reform Judaism)
Rabbi David Saperstein (Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism)

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

It's Not Just Passover this year, it's a Women of the Wall Passover!

WRJ has also worked closely with Anat Hoffman in her capacity as Chairwoman of Women of the Wall, which is currently mounting a Passover Photo Campaign. The WOW's campaign is urging women to personalize, photograph, and post on Facebook the orange on the seder plate to focus attention on the struggle for religious equality at the Western Wall. [Watch the short video clip of Anat Hoffman on the WOW Passover Photo Campaign](#) and read the instructions which follow to learn how to participate and support WOW in its mission.

Chag Sameach!