



Advocacy Update

Sent July 25, 2012

Women of Reform Judaism at the White House

Lynn Magid Lazar, WRJ President, recently met with White House Chief of Staff Jack Lew along with other leaders of the Reform Movement. Read [Lynn's message](#) on the WRJ blog and watch Shalom TV's [newscast](#) about the historic meeting and the important issues raised by her and others.

“Too many innocent lives have been lost to gun catastrophes...”

Responding to the horrific [shooting](#) in Aurora, Colorado, Rabbi David Saperstein reminds us that we should ensure “that common-sense gun control laws are in place to help reduce such acts of violence.” Such gun control laws would be in keeping with WRJ's 1993 “Gun Control” resolution, which urges strict federal waiting period, background check and registration requirements for purchase or ownership of weapons.

Boy Scout Decision Disappointing

The Reform Movement expressed its disappointment at the [recent decision](#) by Boy Scouts of America to continue to discriminate against gay and bisexual scouts and scoutmasters. In 2001, Reform leaders, including WRJ, [recommended](#) that Reform synagogues refrain from sponsoring Boy Scout troops and packs until this policy is rescinded. Happily, Girl Scouts of America has no such policy.

Justice Cannot Wait: Tell Your Senators to Fill Judicial Vacancies Immediately

Our nation's well being depends on the smooth functioning of the judicial system and on the checks and balances it ensures. The US's federal courts currently lack enough judges to hear cases, leading to unreasonable backlogs. From women's rights to employment discrimination cases, to cases of religious liberty, Americans are waiting far too long for justice.

WRJ spoke out on this issue in our 2004 resolution: “Judicial and Executive Branch Nominations,” in which we called for the maintenance of “an impartial, independent judiciary” as “essential to American democracy.” Call or [e-mail](#) your Senators to restore balance to our system and enable to courts to work for those they are supposed to serve.