



Advocacy Update

Sent: October 6, 2018

Kavanaugh Confirmed

In response to the U.S. Senate's confirmation of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the U.S. Supreme Court, Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, Executive Director of WRJ, issued [this public statement](#), reflecting our outrage and disappointment at the despicable way in which the hearings have been handled these past few weeks.

As you may recall, WRJ opposed Judge Kavanaugh's nomination months ago on the bases of his existing record and our long-standing positions on issues such as reproductive rights, gun violence prevention, and the separation of church and state. These matters and many more issues of concern will be in jeopardy with Judge Kavanaugh obtaining a lifetime appointment to the United States' highest court. Our ongoing vigilance will be critical in the coming months and years and WRJ will continue to advocate for social justice. We will make our voices heard as our Jewish mandate commands us, and WRJ women will continue to bring their values to the ballot box.

In addition, the Senate hearings have sparked a crucial conversation in our society about the all-too prevalent reality of sexual violence faced by women in this country and around the world. Too often victims of sexual assault are not believed when they share their stories. This must change. It is not lost on us that October is Domestic Violence Awareness month, and the Violence of Women Act (VAWA) is at risk of lapsing. WRJ called for the reauthorization of VAWA and will continue to fight for passage of this important legislation until we are successful. You will hear more about this issue in the next few weeks.

WRJ stands with survivors of sexual assault. We cannot ignore the 201% increase in calls to the National Sexual Assault Hotline during Dr. Christine Blasey Ford's hearing. Seeing Dr. Ford's testimony triggered others to reveal their own stories of sexual assault and trauma. Sexual violence is experienced by young and old alike, with one in three women experiencing some form of sexual violence in their lifetimes. WRJ recently issued a [resolution](#) on sexual violence in schools, urging officials to enforce policies that strengthen the response to reports of sexual violence. Other related resolutions and policy statements by WRJ can be found [here](#).

We urge our members to stay informed, become engaged, let your voices be heard, and vote. Together we can bring about the changes we would like to see in the world.

[Read the Press Release.](#)