



Advocacy Update

Sent January 13, 2010

Haiti Relief Fund

A severe earthquake devastated Haiti yesterday afternoon. Many thousands of people were killed and millions have been impacted. Make a contribution to help in the recovery efforts through the Union for Reform Judaism Haiti Relief Fund.

You can do so online or by check (note: Haiti Relief in the memo section) to:

Union for Reform Judaism
Attention: Development
633 Third Avenue, 7th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Child Trafficking – Canadian Sisterhood Advocacy Needed

Following a forum on human trafficking, Alexis Rothschild, president of Temple Sholom, Women of Reform Judaism, Vancouver, Canada, sent an alert calling on sisterhood members to advocate Senate deliberation of *Bill C-268, An Act to amend the Criminal Code* (minimum sentence for offenses involving trafficking of persons under the age of eighteen years)," currently in the Canadian Parliament. This private member's bill, sponsored by Joy Smith, MP (Kildonan-St. Paul, Manitoba), was passed by the House of Commons on September 30th. It was subsequently introduced in the Senate and its consideration will resume on March 3, 2010. When the bill is approved by the Senate, it will be given Royal Assent and become law. Please click here for more information on the bill.

Canada is one of the few developed countries that does not have enhanced penalties for the trafficking of children. Canadian sisterhoods are urged to download and print the petition for your members to sign. The address to which it should be sent is at the bottom of the petition. Take action to hold child traffickers accountable for their heinous crimes.

The Temple Committee Against Human Trafficking of Temple Emanu-EL-Beth Sholom, Montreal, Quebec, has been working on this issue for six years, with advocacy, conferences, and programs. Representatives of the committee gave the workshop "Pidyon Sh'evuyim: How Congregations Can Help Stop Human Trafficking and Sex Slavery," at the URJ biennial in Toronto.