



# Advocacy Update

Sent February 3, 2010

## **Call to Cancel Super Bowl Sunday Anti-Abortion Ad**

This coming Sunday is Super Bowl Sunday! Many millions of people across North America will be watching the game aired by CBS, but CBS also has approved for airing an insidious anti-abortion ad, sponsored by Focus on the Family, an anti-choice conservative religious group.

Over the years CBS has refused to run ads which advocated progressive stands as too controversial. We need to let them know that we, as religious women object to this ad, finding it divisive and far too controversial.

## **Funds Urgently Needed for Haiti Emergency and Long Term Relief**

Continuing charitable contributions for Haiti emergency and long term relief are urgently needed. The United States IRS has provided that those who itemize their deductions are eligible to include charitable cash donations for humanitarian relief in Haiti, made between January 11 and March 1, 2010, as either 2009 or 2010 tax deductions.

## **Haiti Relief Update**

Sisterhoods have inquired about the allocation of donated funds, with concern expressed, for example, about services for children. The Reform Movement has distributed funds contributed for Haiti disaster relief to the following partner relief organizations.

**UNICEF** is responding, in coordination with other agencies, to the emergency needs of women and children in Haiti. URJ funding will provide basic medical and health supplies, kitchen kits, water purification tablets, sanitation supplies, tarpaulins, and tents for temporary shelter.

**Direct Relief International:** URJ funds will underwrite an emergency response coordinator, responsible for the distribution of medical goods, site assessment for medical distribution supplies, and coordination with Partners in Health and Damian Pediatric Hospital.

**United Nations Foundation:** URJ funds will assist the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) efforts, including distribution of medical services and supplies, clean water and sanitation access, emergency shelters, food delivery, and infrastructure rehabilitation. Following the emergency relief response, CERF will add recovery and long-term reconstruction efforts.

**American Jewish World Service (AJWS)** is partnering with Haitian community-based agencies that work in communities affected by the earthquake outside of areas already targeted for large-scale relief, such as Port-au-Prince. MOSCTHA, the Socio-Cultural Movement of Haitian Workers needs funds to underwrite its mobile clinic, which provides weekly medicine and personal hygiene supplies to more than 5,000 families in rural areas that are receiving little-to-no emergency support.

**International Rescue Committee (IRC)** is collaborating with local Haitian partners to rehabilitate damaged clinics, establish mobile clinics, distribute food, water and water storage containers, and dispense basic shelter materials including sheets, blankets, hygiene items, and roofing sheets.

*For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit [www.wrj.org/social-justice-home](http://www.wrj.org/social-justice-home)*

**UNITED ISRAEL APPEAL CANADA/ISRA-AID:** Funds from the CCRJ will go to United Israel Appeal Canada for its support of IsraAid, the coalition of Israeli NGO disaster relief specialists. Fund proceeds qualify for Canadian government matching dollars which will be allocated to Canada's Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. For more information provided by the CCRJ click on [http://urj.org/socialaction/issues/relief/haiti/?syspage=article&item\\_id=32520](http://urj.org/socialaction/issues/relief/haiti/?syspage=article&item_id=32520).

As the need for emergency responses is reduced, the URJ allocations will fund longer-term recovery efforts. Donations are urgently needed. Donations to the Union for Reform Judaism Haiti Relief Fund can be made 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

Note: The Union for Reform Judaism retains no overhead expenses for disaster relief donations, other than direct costs such as credit card fees.

Because of the need to inform you of the action needed regarding the Super Bowl Sunday ad and the need for contributions for Haiti relief, we will move the breast cancer resources to next week.