



# Advocacy Update

Sent March 16, 2011

## **Devastating Earthquake and Tsunami in Japan**

The March 11th earthquake and tsunami in Japan have caused widespread destruction and horrific human loss: a rapidly rising death toll, tens of thousands of people still missing, and hundreds of thousands displaced. Access to food, water, medicine, and electricity is becoming increasingly limited and humanitarian rescue and relief workers are laboring in freezing temperatures to find and care for survivors.

The receding of the waters did not end the damage brought about by the tsunami. It soon became evident that the nuclear facilities at Fukushima had been seriously damaged. Heroic skeleton crews, braving radiation, have been working around the clock to prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

WRJ has joined the Jewish Coalition for Japan Relief to respond to the needs of the Japanese people in dealing with this tragedy. The coalition provides a central location for donation of funds, as well as information about relief efforts and on the ground needs for member agencies. Funds collected by the coalition will be dedicated towards relief and recovery efforts in the affected region.

## **Canadian Sisterhood Donations**

Ve'ahavta, The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, is a member of the Jewish Coalition for Disaster Relief. Canadians can make donations for Japan relief through Ve'ahavta to receive a Canadian tax receipt.

### Ve'ahavta

200 Bridgeland Ave., Unit D  
Toronto, Ontario M6A 1Z4 Canada  
Tel: 416.964.7698  
Fax: 416.964.6582  
Toll-free: 1-877-582-5472  
Donate Online

## **Join a Conference Call with the President of Planned Parenthood**

Women of Reform Judaism and the Religious Action Center invite you to participate in "Saving Reproductive Choice: A Conference Call Update" on Tuesday, March 22, at 12 p.m. EST. Cecile Richards, president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, will talk about the current federal legislative attacks on reproductive rights and the serious threats they pose to women's lives.

WRJ President Lynn Magid Lazar will moderate the call. We'll also be hearing from the director of Concerned Clergy for Choice, Rabbi Dennis Ross, of Congregation Beth Emeth in Albany, NY, who has worked on reproductive rights issues for many years. A short question-and-answer session will follow.

**Senior RAC staff members will describe concrete steps you can take to protect the right to choose.**

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

The attacks on reproductive rights at this time are more serious than ever. Some members of Congress are threatening to drastically reduce access to affordable reproductive health services, contraception, pelvic exams, cancer screenings, STD testing and other essential women's health services. We must act now to prevent these harmful reductions in access, which would impact both women and men. Start by joining the call.

Register for the call today and visit the [RAC website](#) to learn more about reproductive rights and Reform Judaism.