



Advocacy Update

Sent October 24, 2012

Hear O Women of Israel: Anat's Arrest and WRJ Sh'ma Smackdown

Last week, Anat Hoffman (executive director of the Israel Religious Action Center and chairwoman of Women of the Wall) was arrested at the Kotel for saying the *Sh'ma* out loud. Anat was put through a horrible ordeal that included being strip-searched, shackled, and left to sleep on the floor of a jail cell. Women of the Wall was founded in response to the prohibition under Israeli law for women to hold a public religious ceremony at the Kotel. It is a group of women who come together for a service at the Western Wall every Rosh Chodesh to fight this horrific policy and to work to make the Kotel a holy site where women can pray freely.

Guided by our principles of achieving equality for women and ensuring a strong, democratic and pluralistic Israel, WRJ has spoken out against this injustice but we realize that more must be done. Participate in our efforts to raise awareness about this issue, and to truly affect change by Smacking, Sharing, and Signing.

SMACK: Join women worldwide in the Sh'ma SMACKdown. Create a video of you, your friends, or your sisterhood saying the Sh'ma, or take a picture with the Sh'ma prayer and e-mail it to womenofreformjudaism@gmail.com. These pieces will be compiled and posted on Facebook to show Israel and the world that the women of WRJ are proud of our right to pray.

SHARE: Take advantage of WRJ online tools. "Like" our Facebook page and comment on posts about this issue and posts about the project, read our blog and comment on posts discussing the issue and post about this project, and most importantly, SHARE these resources through your own social media or online networks with your sisterhoods and friends.

SIGN: The Israel Religious Action Center has created a petition calling for an end to the religious monopoly at the Kotel.

SIGN this petition and SIGN-up for alerts and newsletters from RAC and IRAC for up-to-date information about Anat and women's rights, in Israel and around the world.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is a month devoted to women's issues – in addition to being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, it is also Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Breast Cancer Awareness month is a time to speak out about the devastating impact of more than 300,000 cases of breast cancer diagnosed each year, and support the one in eight women who develop invasive breast cancer over the course of a lifetime.

While there are some medical solutions to breast cancer, our best chance at combating the problem is with prevention. That is why WRJ makes available a complimentary shower card explaining how to perform self-breast examinations, a crucial element in identifying problems before they escalate. Breast Cancer Awareness Month is an opportunity for young people across the country to access the tools and information they need to take full advantage of the preventative services and procedures available.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home

Get Out the Vote!

Election Day is less than two weeks away!

The RAC has put together a non-partisan "[Get Out the Vote](#)" guide that sisterhoods can use to encourage their members to exercise their constitutional rights and vote. This guide includes resources for assisting disabled voters, sample letters and articles that can be disseminated, and Jewish texts on the importance of voting.