



Advocacy Update

Sent December 19, 2012

Sensible Gun Control

WRJ, and the larger Reform movement, were horrified to learn of the tragic shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. In response to the shooting, Rachel Laser, Deputy Director of the Religious Action Center, issued the following statement:

"We are deeply saddened by the tragedy that occurred... at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families. This horror reinforces the need to ensure that common-sense gun control laws are in place to help reduce these incidents. Although the details of this shooting are still coming to light, it appears that the weapon used by the shooter would have been banned under the Assault Weapons Ban, which Congress wrongly allowed to expire in 2004.

The Talmud teaches us, "He who takes one life it is as though he has destroyed the universe." The loss of so many lives, including children, is not just devastating - it is unacceptable. We call on members of Congress, the President and people committed to the well being of all Americans to find shared values on gun control measures that will help ensure the safety of us all."

In the face of this horrifying event, we must renew WRJ's longstanding efforts to advocate for responsible gun control. Click here to tell your member of Congress to advance sensible legislation, including taking assault weapons off of our streets and improving our system of background checks.

Women of the Wall

Last Friday, Israeli police detained four women as they prayed, with prayer shawls and other religious articles, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem as part of a group organized by Women of the Wall. Among those detained was Reform Rabbi Elyse Frishman, senior rabbi of Barnert Temple in Franklin Lakes, NJ, the oldest synagogue in New Jersey and editor of Central Conference of American Rabbis' Mishkan T'filah.

Rabbi Marla J. Feldman, WRJ Executive Director, was quoted in a press release as saying, "The Western Wall should be a place that unites the Jewish people, where all responsible, courteous worshipers are welcomed and respected. Women of Reform Judaism will visit the Kotel with Women of the Wall in March as part of our organization's Centennial celebration. We hope to be able to pray freely there with our Israeli sisters."

We need your help to keep up the pressure on the Israeli government to make the Western Wall a home for Jews from all denominations. Add your signature to nearly 30,000 others demanding freedom of worship and pluralism at the holiest site for the Jewish people, or participate in the WRJ Sh'ma Smackdown with members of your Sisterhoods or congregations.

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