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### Women's Right's Within Judaism

There are women in the world who have rights and freedom, who can go shopping whenever they want, get their hair and nails done, and even go to their religious-affiliated building and pray. There are also women in the world who are not as fortunate as we are. They might have to work every single minute of the day and never receive any rewards or they might only have the right to stay at home and cook. For example, most Jewish women in the United States have the freedom to pray and read Torah, but the Jewish women of Israel do not in their case. One way to resolve this solution is to stand up for what you believe, so in this case, that would be women's rights inside of Judaism. A specific group that stands up for their rights is the women's activist group, Women of the Wall. Women of the Wall is made up of all Jewish women denominations and focuses on getting their rights to read and pray from the Torah at the Western Wall. Women in Judaism have been having Women's Right's issues, such as the activist group Women of The Wall who are being pushed around for wanting to pray and practice their religion; however, we are now starting to make a difference by electing women to the Israeli legislature and becoming orthodox rabbis.

The Western Wall is a very old wall in Jerusalem and is very important to the Jewish faith because it is the last part of the Holy Temple. The Holy Temple was the first synagogue for Jews and is very sacred to us. The wall was made in 19 BCE and the temple was destroyed in 70 CE. It is one of the oldest parts of our heritage and is very important to every single Jew. Women of the Wall, also known as the "WOW", was founded in 1988 to gain social and legal rights for women in Judaism. Achieving these rights will allow Jewish Women to wear prayer shawls, pray out loud, and read from the Torah collectively as a community at the

Western Wall. Women of the Wall is made up of Jewish women from all denominations of Judaism, such as Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Masorti, Renewal, and Reconstructionist. There are services for all women at the wall and many other ways to support them. Women of the Wall does not only want to be allowed to pray as group prayer and Torah reading at our most sacred site, but they also want to be recognized for the prayer service by the legal and religious Israeli authorities. This will not only help the ladies in Women Of The Wall but for the sake of all Jewish women. They want all the people of Israel and of the Jewish Community( Kehillah in Hebrew) to be accepting of them and want to be recognized politically. Women Of The Wall want the Israeli Government to be accepting of them but the only problem is that the government is mostly made up of Orthodox Jews. Women Of The Wall, have had many in today's world and they still are trying to fight through all of the hatred against them.

According to The Jerusalem Posts, on February 16, 2017, Haredi( A sub-branch of Orthodox within Judaism) men shoved and pushed the Jewish women as they entered and exited the Western Wall, which had designated police for the women in the Women's section within the Western Wall. Also, when the women were praying and chanting Torah other protesters blew whistles right outside of the women's section for the duration of the entire service. Not only were the protesters being disrespectful, but an amplified sound system was put into the men's section so it was more of a challenge for the women to hear each other as a group. These three examples alone, show us that there need to be more rights for women within Judaism. This evidence is giving the meaning that men think that they are more important than women and do not think women deserve their rights and free will. A woman is just as much of a human as a man is and might even practice the same religion as them, so what the problem? Why can women not have their earned rights as Jewish women, to pray at our holy site and share the experience with their ancestors and family? This religion is focused on the rights of everyone, no matter what race or religion they have. All women need and have earned their rights, not just as one person but all of them together as a kehillah/ community.

There are many problems and issues in today's world, but on the other hand, there are also many solutions that can be done to resolve these issues or at least try to resolve them. The Women of the Wall website

has a page providing only information on how other people can make a difference and help them gain their rights. There are many ways to get involved and help the WOW out from all around the world. People can help them from as far away as Hawaii to as close as Tel Aviv by getting in the action. They are able to donate money, gain supporters, or go there and help protest to make a difference in our torn world. Also, they can rally their community around WOW, organize an event, and even pressure local Israeli government workers to get involved and help the women gain their equality and participate in the latest protests. Luckily, people around the world understand these problems and already are starting to get involved. Currently, 30 women in Israel were sworn in the legislature and a woman became the first orthodox rabbi there. Also, there is now a section at the Western Wall for Conservative and Reformed Jews, which is a big step from the past. These solutions will help solve many of the problems that are going on now, but they will need more help and support than they have. The women will have to gain their rights on their own and allow the help and support of others to make an impact. With help from the rest of the world, we can mend this torn problem.

Women are now being elected to the Israeli legislature and becoming orthodox rabbis because people are now starting to get involved by helping Women in Judaism gain their rights. They are starting to make a difference in this world, which is very different from the past. Women's Right's inside of Judaism are increasing tremendously and you hear less about women in Women of The Wall who are being pushed around for wanting to pray and practice their religion, but women becoming the first orthodox Rabbis or getting awards. Maybe one day women will become so much more than money-makers and wives.

## **Women of the wall website**

<http://www.womenofthewall.org.il/>

## **About them**

Founded on July 20, 2012

### **Mission**

Women of the Wall (WOW) was founded in 1988 to achieve social and legal recognition of the right as women, to wear prayer shawls, pray out loud, and read from the Torah collectively at the women's section of the Western Wall.

## **What is it?**

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/quot-women-of-the-wall-quot>

## **Current News**

<http://www.jpost.com/Israel-News/Women-of-the-Wall-face-harassment-again-at-Western-Wall-482711>

## **What are the women of the wall?**

Women of the Wall, (Neshot Hakotel נשות הכותל in Hebrew) is a group of Jewish women from Israel and around the world who strive to achieve the right to wear prayer shawls, pray and read from the Torah collectively and out loud at the Western Wall (Kotel) in Jerusalem, Israel. The Western Wall is Judaism's most sacred holy site and the principal symbol of Jewish peoplehood and sovereignty, and Women of the Wall works to make it a holy site where women can pray freely. Women of the Wall is comprised of women from all denominations of Judaism – Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, Masorti, Renewal, and Reconstructionist.

Women of the Wall not only seek empowerment in group prayer and Torah reading at our most sacred site but also strives for recognition of our prayer service by the legal and religious Israeli authorities, for the sake of all Jewish women. Our group, with a membership that is not only multi-denominational but spans the political spectrum, embodies a message of tolerance and pluralism.