



Did you know that it is **against Israeli law for women** to wear a tallit, read from the Torah or pray in unison, out loud, at the Western Wall in Jerusalem?

Did you know that in Israel, non-Orthodox (Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, etc.) streams of Judaism are not recognized by the Orthodox Rabbinat, their rabbis have no authority and they receive none of the funding from the government that the Orthodox do?

Here and elsewhere around the world, our daughters, mothers, grandmothers, rabbis, cantors and teachers, men and women alike, hold the Torah, read from the Torah, and study the Torah. Daily and weekly, holiday and Shabbat, the voices of millions of women and girls in prayer resound in our synagogues. We pray without disturbance, without fear. Why, only in Jerusalem should they pray with fear of arrest and prosecution?

The challenge to promote religious pluralism in Israel is great. One champion is **Women of the Wall (WOW)**, www.womenofthewall.org.il whose mission is to achieve the social and legal recognition of the right of women to wear prayer shawls, pray, and read from the Torah collectively, out loud at the Western Wall.

They have been verbally abused and physically threatened at monthly Rosh Hodesh services. Members have recently been interrogated and arrested. In response, WOW has created a wise and clever campaign to gather 10,000 pictures of women holding Torah scrolls, which will be sent to Israeli government officials by Simhat Torah.

We have proudly taken up the cause at BIJ, and invite Jewish women-temple members and their friends-to be photographed holding a Sefer Torah at the following times.

- September 3: 5:45pm - 6:30pm before our First Friday Family Shabbat Potluck
- September 4: At night, after the film before the Selichot service when we change our Torah mantels to white for the High Holidays
- September 19: 1:00pm - 3:00pm during Craft 'n' Schmooze
- September 24: 5:45pm - 6:30pm before the Shabbat Potluck in the Sukkah

PLEASE JOIN US! If you cannot come at one of the times listed above, contact Sara Heckelman at [yakira3636 at yahoo.com](mailto:yakira3636@yahoo.com) or (415) 641.8242 to arrange an alternate time.

