



Advocacy Update

Sent April 14, 2010

Hold a Program/Take Action on Domestic Violence

Violence against women has been a priority issue for WRJ for almost thirty years. WRJ first addressed domestic violence in the Jewish family with our 1983 resolution “Children and the Family” and was the first organization within the Jewish religious movements to do so. The resolution urges sisterhoods to undertake programs to increase awareness of domestic violence in the Jewish family and to work with other organizations to provide support and services for the victims of spouse, family, or child abuse.

Following-up on this resolution, WRJ published Rabbi Julie R. Spitzer’s landmark book *Spousal Abuse in Rabbinic and Contemporary Judaism* in 1985. In 1991 and 1995 WRJ updated and reissued Rabbi Spitzer’s book as *When Love Is Not Enough: Spousal Abuse in Rabbinic and Contemporary Judaism*. Rabbi Spitzer translated traditional Jewish texts on the subject and reviewed the current literature on abuse in the general and Jewish communities. Her book suggests sisterhood programming to educate congregants and support families disrupted by abuse.

WRJ sisterhoods have been actively involved in domestic and dating abuse programming and community services. This continues to be needed. Adapt and use the brief descriptions of projects winning Or Ami awards since 1991 and annotated list of helpful resources for programming and action to plan programs and projects for your sisterhood and community.

SALE: *When Love Is Not Enough: Spousal Abuse in Rabbinic and Contemporary Judaism* is now \$5.00. The background on domestic abuse in the Jewish family and recommendations for sisterhood programming to provide awareness and support for abused women are up-to-date and relevant. The section on shelters in the United States, however, is out of date.

WRJ and Violence Against Women Globally

The United Nations, UNICEF, and other international organizations have brought to light the many forms of violence against women found globally. Accordingly, WRJ has taken stands and action on: women’s right to live free of violence; prosecution of those committing rape as a war strategy; prevention of sexual trafficking of women and girls, female genital mutilation, and child marriage; and protection of elders from abuse.

In addition, WRJ works with organizations and coalitions that deal with violence against women, provides sisterhoods with programming materials, and sends advocacy alerts to sisterhoods in support of the Violence Against Women Act, the International Violence Against Women Act, and other related legislation.

Urge your sisterhood to work with WRJ in advocating and end to violence against women. Make sure to respond to and circulate the calls for legislation and diplomacy that come to you via these WRJ social justice e-mails.