



# Advocacy Update

Sent December 28, 2011

## **WRJ's 48th Assembly Delegates Adopt Resolutions on Sustainability and Employee Rights**

WRJ's 48th assembly delegates adopted the attached resolutions, "Sustainable Consumption and Production: Learning to Live Together" and "Employee Rights." The resolutions, adopted by assembly delegates and grounded in Jewish values, are the basis for WRJ and sisterhood social justice action, study, advocacy, and community services. Our organization's statements are adopted by the WRJ Board of Directors and Executive Committee on issues that come up between assemblies. "WRJ Responds to Current Concerns Regarding Israel," provided with the December 21st social justice e-mail, was adopted by the board in December and issued at assembly.

All resolutions and statements adopted by WRJ, from its first biennial convention in 1915 (then NFTS) to the present, are available on the [WRJ website](#).

For specific programs or advocacy recommendations based on the resolutions and statements adopted from 2010 through those from this assembly, watch for the upcoming Guide for Advocacy and Action and the WRJ weekly social justice e-mails. The following are general programming and advocacy suggestions to get you started.

### **Programming Recommendations:**

- Devote a few moments at the next three board meetings to review and discuss a current WRJ resolution or statement.
- Urge your sisterhood's program committee to hold a meeting on the resolutions, with emphasis on WRJ positions on hot issues.
- When holding programs, provide speakers with relevant resolutions and other WRJ resources on the subject. Introduce the program by providing information about WRJ's interest in the subject and action taken by WRJ and your sisterhood.
- Establish a social justice committee. If you do not have one, use the WRJ program Social Action Rings: An Eight Step Program to Advocacy in Action to set one up.
- Prepare bulletin articles on the issues, using materials sent with WRJ alerts.
- Develop community service projects that respond to the issues delineated in the resolutions.

### **Advocacy Recommendations:**

Most WRJ resolutions involve advocacy components at the federal level. Others, such as Employee Rights, require close monitoring and advocacy at the state, local, and provincial levels.

- Follow weekly news magazines and the local newspapers as useful sources of information about issues on the federal and local agendas.
- Keep clipping files on current and emerging issues to provide you with background information for writing letters or calling your legislators.
- Participate in community coalitions that support positions taken by WRJ.
- Call, FAX or e-mail your legislators. Contact information can be obtained at the websites <http://www.house.gov> and <http://www.senate.gov>.
- Respond quickly to WRJ and Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC) action alerts.

*For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit [www.wrj.org/social-justice-home](http://www.wrj.org/social-justice-home)*

**Make social justice a focus for your sisterhood!**