



Advocacy Update

Sent March 9, 2011

International Women's Day

Yesterday, March 8th, was the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day. At this time, when women's well-being is under threat, not only in many parts of the world, but in pending legislation here at home in the United States, we thought you would be interested in President Obama's statement on the subject and in an interview with Michele Bachelet, the head of the UN's new agency, UN Women.

President Obama spoke of women's advances during the past century and of his administration's full support for gender equality and for women's well being and empowerment. Take a moment to [read his full statement as posted on the White House website.](#)

[UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet](#), in a conversation with Foreign Policy magazine, spoke about International Women's Day and that she hopes that her work with UN Woman will bring us closer to a time when a "women's day" is no longer necessary.

The Religious Action Center Website – A Source for Information and Action on Social Justice Concerns

Over the past months WRJ has advocated on many vital issues, such as health care reform, the International Violence Against Women Act, women's right to choose, dangerous high capacity ammunition, and environmental issues. Currently, the [Religious Action Center website's home page](#) has links to information on all these issues, many with opportunities for you to take action.

The Consultation on Conscience is coming soon! You will find links to the program and registration materials on the RAC's home page.

Additionally, there is a notice about the RAC's Kovler Family Black-Jewish Microgrants, which as noted by Rabbi David Saperstein, have been made available as encouragements for congregations and affiliates "to work with... African American partners to develop programming that will help strengthen relationships between the African American and Jewish communities." Check with your congregation's leaders about the possibility of developing a project with a local African American church.