



Advocacy Update

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Women in Immigration Reform

We've been hearing a lot about immigration reform this week. The Senate has unveiled its bipartisan bill, the first step in the long legislative process that is yet to come. Yet while the issue of immigration certainly affects all facets of our society – from agricultural workers to high tech engineers, from Los Angelinos to New Yorkers, from children to the elderly – women have increasingly been feeling the effects of our broken immigration policies.

It is essential that any “comprehensive immigration reform” law is truly comprehensive – and that it addresses the concerns of *all* immigrants, including the millions of women who are at risk and living in fear. To that end, WRJ joined with other women and immigration activists to call on Congress to pass immigration reform that includes a roadmap to citizenship that recognizes the contribution of women and women's work, keeps families together, promotes healthy families to strengthen communities, recognizes women's work in future employment categories, ensures protections for women asylum seekers and survivors of violence and trafficking, and promotes immigrant integration.

To read more about this issue, check out the full article [on our blog!](#)

WRJ and Equality at the Kotel

Last week, women's equality activists in Israel received some exciting news: Natan Sharansky laid out a proposal for a new egalitarian section of the Western Wall. In a compromise that has thus far been well-received by most involved parties, the plan – according to [an article](#) in the Forward – “calls for building a new entryway to the Kotel area, which will present visitors with the choice of either going to the left, to the designated Orthodox area, or turning right, to the egalitarian section. The entire plaza will be expanded and will reach the area known as Robinson's Arch.” Israeli leaders such as Anat Hoffman, Director of the Reform Movement's Israel Religious Action Center as well as the spokeswoman for “[Women of the Wall](#),” a critical WRJ partner, have come out in support of this compromise.

Equality at the Kotel is, and long has been, an extremely important issue for WRJ. On our recent Centennial trip to Israel, [WRJ members attended](#) a Women of the Wall Rosh Chodesh service, while members in New York went to an egalitarian [solidarity service](#) in NYC. There was even a [recent news article](#) featuring WRJ past President Rosanne Selfon, who was part of last month's Israeli delegation. “I have rights, and I want to make sure my sisters in Israel do, said Rosanne Selfon, activist,” the article reads.

WRJ works hard to make sure our Israeli sisters enjoy these basic rights through our [advocacy endeavors](#). There are also important ways to support Women of the Wall and their efforts from home, whether it is organizing a [Sh'ma Smackdown](#) with your sisterhoods, doing a joint educational program about Women of the Wall with your Israeli counterpart if you're a participant [in the WRJ Israel twinning program](#), or simply opening up a dialogue about this important issue with key stakeholders in your home congregations.

For more information on WRJ and Social Justice, visit www.wrj.org/social-justice-home