

WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM: RESOLUTIONS 2010



Throughout the year, and in a variety of forums, Women's League for Conservative Judaism is asked to express the organization's stand on a variety of issues. Women's League is able to craft its positions based on its public policy resolutions. It is in the process of creating Women's League public policy resolutions that your voice, as an affiliated sisterhood, is heard.

Function

It is through the adoption of resolutions that Women's League has the authority to take positions either for or against issues that impact the Jewish community in general and Jewish women in particular.

Resolutions are generally presented at the biennial convention of Women's League; however, in the intervening years between conventions, resolutions may be proposed and adopted at meetings of the WLCJ Board of Directors and the annual meeting of the organization.

Process

Resolutions evolve with input from the Women's League public policy committee and from our affiliation with other agencies, particularly the Leadership Council of Conservative Judaism and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA). JCPA encompasses the Jewish Community Relations Councils throughout the country and twelve member organizations. JCPA monitors the national and international scene and interacts with its constituent members on a regular basis.

In the spring of a convention year, we solicit input from sisterhoods and regions. The public policy committee reviews the input and begins drafting the proposed resolutions. The drafts go through an internal review and go out to the field for review and comment. The resolutions are finessed and then made available for final review by sisterhoods and regions. If there are no changes at this point, the resolutions are ready for presentation at convention.

At convention, the drafts are presented to a caucus of designated region representatives and other interested members, which makes the final review of the resolutions. At the 2010 convention, the caucus will be Sunday afternoon at 4:00. The resolutions, in their final form, will be presented to the entire convention on Tuesday afternoon when delegates will have the opportunity to speak either for or against them, which will be followed by a vote, thereby expressing the will of the delegates.

At the conclusion of the convention, the accepted resolutions become official, authoritative policy for the organization and join the resolutions adopted by previous conventions or meetings. All resolutions are available on the Women's League website, www.wlcj.org.

Rita C. Altman, EdD, Public Policy Chair

The following draft resolutions have been prepared by the public policy, Israel, Canadian Affairs, and United Nations committees for presentation at the Women's League Business Plenum at Convention 2010.

PUBLIC POLICY

BULLYING

Background

Within the last five years, we have witnessed a startling development in adolescent acting out behavior between teen and preteen children. What once was the typical teasing of adolescents by adolescents has now escalated to a level that yields physical, psychological and verbal aggression -- bullying.

Bullying has been defined as verbal, physical and emotional harassment. What has been added to this mix of factors recently are electronic and cyber harassment, resulting in a pernicious and difficult to control intrusion in a child's life. While physical and verbal bullying often takes place face to face and often in the presence of others, cyber bullying is hidden from the view of others and the victim is alone with no witnesses, aid or route of escape. Methods of cyber bullying include usage of texting, web sites such as Facebook, cell phone photos, twitter, e-mails, impersonations, blogs and codes. Messages and photos can be distributed without limit and are irrefragable making them lethal in their effect on the victim. Technology offers a buffer that frees the perpetrator from fear of discovery; as a result, the victim can be threatened or humiliated anonymously. Compounding the problem of dealing with cyber bullying is the fact that most cyber bullying takes place away from school property so few responses using traditional disciplinary methods are available.

According to the National Conference of State Legislators in 2009, 19 states enacted laws to regulate and control cyber bullying. Most states concur that a school may intervene in a case of cyber bullying if there is a clear relationship between the bullying and the school. For example, cell phone photos taken in a locker room and distributed are cause for school official intervention. Law enforcement officials may be contacted in cases that involve death threats, extortion, sexual exploitation or intimidation based on race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. Civil recourse is also available; however, in charges of cyber bullying, the First Amendment rights is a factor to be considered.

Most recent Massachusetts law has mandated the reporting of any observance of any form of bullying by school personnel.

WHEREAS the effects of bullying, particularly cyber bullying, have been documented to have long lasting serious consequences ranging from anxiety, depression and school avoidance to violence and suicide, and

WHEREAS cyber bullying is of national concern as indicated by both government and private studies and debate in state legislatures and courts,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism

1. Encourage its members to become knowledgeable regarding school policies, state legislation and legal recourse regarding cyber bullying and cyber threats

2. Promote and support “No Tolerance for Bullying” school policies which include bullying prevention education, “netiquette” (proper use of the technology available to students) and a serious discussion with students regarding effects and consequences of bullying behavior
3. Encourage youth and community groups to choose activities that promote friendship and self-esteem within bullying prevention programs.

Encourage Sisterhoods to program meetings with parents and grandparents to develop awareness with respect to what constitutes bullying and the recourse parents have.

CHILDHOOD OBESITY

Background

Obesity is a serious health concern for children in the United States today. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) defines obesity as the result of “caloric imbalance,” too few calories expended for the amount of calories consumed. This caloric imbalance results in both immediate and long term health problems.

Data from the CDCP show that childhood obesity has tripled over the past twenty-five years. Among preschool age children 2-5 years of age, obesity increased from 5% in 1980 to 10.4% in 2008. For 6 to 11 year olds the rate of increase was from 6.5% in 1980 to 19.6% in 2008. Among adolescents aged 12-19, the rate of increase is even higher.

Children who are diagnosed as obese are more prone to psychological issues such as depression, low self esteem and significant substance abuse. They are also more likely to be at risk for cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure and cholesterol, bone and joint disease, sleep disorders and type 2 Diabetes.

In the long term, obese children and adolescents are more likely to become obese adults. One study found that approximately 80% of children who were overweight at ages 10–15 years were obese adults at age 25 years. Adult health problems such as type-2 Diabetes, stroke, some forms of cancer and osteoarthritis have been linked to childhood and adolescent obesity.

The causes of obesity can be a combination of factors such as genetics, environmental factors, behavior, unhealthy eating patterns and lack of physical activity. Other factors may include socio-economic status, race, ethnicity, media and marketing of “fast foods.” It has been shown that most factors that cause obesity do not work in isolation and targeting only one factor does not make any significant impact on the problem.

WHEREAS the CDCP data and other studies point to a need to address the issue of overweight children and adolescents, and

WHEREAS obesity among children is found in all economic, racial and religious communities and

WHEREAS Judaism teaches that reasonable and moderate consumption of food is the ideal,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women’s League for Conservative Judaism encourage its affiliated Sisterhoods to

1. Offer healthy, low calorie foods at all events and programs;
2. Offer programs that inform parents and grandparents about balanced, proper nutrition and physical activity for children in their families, synagogues and community;
3. Support extra-curricular programs at schools, synagogues and community centers which include appropriate, safe physical activity for children;
4. Promote awareness of contemporary food issues that relate to Jewish traditions and values of moderation; and

5. Encourage implementing three healthy family habits--eating dinner together, making sure children get enough sleep, and limiting video games and other sedentary activities.

DON'T ASK DON'T TELL

Background

“Don’t Ask Don’t Tell” is the popular label for a 1993 Defense Department Directive which prohibited any homosexual or bisexual person from disclosing his or her sexual orientation or from speaking about any homosexual relationships. Defense Department Directive 1304.26 attempted to modify Public Law 103-160 and focused on conduct rather than sexual orientation and added to “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”, don’t pursue and don’t harass. Unfortunately, the on the ground implementation of the policy has not succeeded in remediating the issue of the ability of gay, lesbian and bisexual personnel to serve honorably and free of bias in the United States Armed Forces.

Since 2003, the American Psychological Association has supported permitting gay, lesbian and bisexual persons to serve in the military asserting that their presence and service has not resulted in any disruption or loss of mission effectiveness. NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) data indicates that 85% of the countries in NATO permit openly gay or lesbian personnel to serve in the military. In addition, sexual orientation has never been an issue with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Israeli gay, lesbian and bisexual personnel serve in the IDF.

In April of 2010, Rabbi Steven Wernick , Executive Vice President and CEO of United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism, articulated the Movement’s position on “Don’t Ask Don’t Tell”. Rabbi Wernick argued that the USCJ position comes from “the Jewish ideal of *k’vod habriyot*, human dignity. The U.S. military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, simply put, is an affront to *k’vod habriyot*, and it should be overturned”. The USCJ position continues, “We believe strongly, therefore, that every American citizen, regardless of ethnicity, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, should have the right to serve our country. And, no American citizen should have to lie about the person he or she most loves. The "don't ask" part of the "don't ask, don't tell" equation is on target - it is no one's business, ever. But the "don't tell" part is a violation of every person's right to seek love, and the right that Thomas Jefferson affirmed for us, the right to the pursuit of happiness.”

On May 25, 2010, Defense Secretary Robert Gates with the advice and support of the Joint Chiefs of the US Armed Forces announced new rules that made it more difficult to discharge gay and lesbian personnel. At the same time, the Defense Department established a commission to investigate the policy further and to make recommendations to the Secretary of Defense by December, 2010.

The Congress has tabled action on the policy until the report from the Secretary of Defense is received.

WHEREAS data from various sources support permitting openly gay, lesbian and bisexual persons to serve in the military forces of the United States, and

WHEREAS Women’s League for Conservative Judaism believes it is important for the Movement’s arms to join in support of the position articulated by United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism on the issue of such service,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women’s League for Conservative Judaism embrace and support the position taken by United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism and engage in dialogue with coalitions advocating the repeal of “Don't Ask Don't Tell” to ensure policies that permit all US military personnel to serve without prejudice or discrimination.

ECONOMIC EQUITY

Background

Equal pay for equal work has been a bedrock position of Women's League for Conservative Judaism for decades with positions supporting our belief in fair compensation for equal work. Despite the requirement of equal treatment of male and female employees required by the Equal Pay Act of 1963 progress toward that goal has been made in the breach as opposed to the implementation of the legislative provisions.

In January 2009, some progress was made to ensuring pay equity and protection against wage discrimination with the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. However, the most recent study by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) shows that women in general earn 78 cents for each dollar earned by men. The study maintains that it takes women more than 16 months to earn the same pay as their male counterparts make in 12 months.

Currently the US Congress is considering the Paycheck Fairness Act (S. 182) which if passed will help secure equal pay for all Americans. The Paycheck Fairness Act would offer incentives for employers to follow the law, would strengthen federal enforcement of the law and would provide penalties for violators and would prohibit retaliation against employees who seek salary compensation information. The bill has been passed by the House of Representatives and is now pending in the Senate.

WHEREAS women continue to experience economic inequity and

WHEREAS Supreme Court decisions and existing legislation have not changed this inequity, often including loopholes which allow discrimination to continue and

WHEREAS women are often steered through education and other means into lesser paying and remunerative positions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism seek to have its members

1. Advocate for measures ensuring equal pay for equivalent work,
2. Advocate for oversight of pay grade definitions to be inclusive of all, regardless of gender,
3. Support education and training for women in all areas of employment, including nontraditional jobs, and
4. Support legislation, particularly the Paycheck Fairness Act and policies that support economic equity for women.

WOMEN IN PUBLIC OFFICE

The importance of women in public office has been a priority concern of Women's League for Conservative Judaism policy for more than two decades. Though progress has been incremental, the participation of women in government has been on a positive although slight trajectory.

Women's League's position in 1982 was to work to mainstream qualified women into the political process, including election and appointment to public office and full participation in policy planning; and to support women attaining positions of leadership and decision making within the community organizational structure.

The 1992 election was dubbed the year of the woman, due to the high number of women elected to Congress. However, that high has not been replicated since.

According to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University, only 24 percent of state legislators nationwide are women and only 17 percent of the US Congress is female. In 2010, women held 90, or 16.8%, of the 535 seats in the 111th US Congress — 17, or 17.0%, of the 100 seats in the Senate and 73, or 16.8%, of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives. On the state level, 72 women held statewide elective executive offices across the country, 22.9% of the 315 available positions.

Internationally, the United States ranks anywhere from 61st to 73rd in terms of women's representation. This under-representation of women in public office has a profound impact on policymaking. CAWP has a new initiative called the 2012 Project.

The goal is to increase the number of women in office since new seats will be created as a result of the 2010 census reapportionment, thereby opening opportunities for women running for these new seats. Project 2012 recognizes that women need specific support and encouragement to run for office. There are few political mentors for women, and women have a harder time raising the necessary funds to campaign and win. The "old boys network" often excludes women and they are not often asked to run for office by the established political parties, while men are.

The recent phenomena of women running for highest political office in the United States places women running for political office in the national spotlight. This is the time for action. Ruth Mandel, director of the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University, urged "Jewish women to embrace the public world as personal responsibility and obligation of Tikkun Olam."

WHEREAS women have an ideal opportunity to run for political office in the next few years, and

WHEREAS when women are in decision making positions they have the opportunity to promote social change, and

WHEREAS Women's League for Conservative Judaism has a position to promote qualified women into the political process, including election and appointment to public office, and

WHEREAS women's full participation in policy planning can lead to positive social change, and

WHEREAS the 2012 national election presents a special opportunity for women's entry into elected office,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism works to endorse programs supporting women running for elected and appointed office and encourages Sisterhoods to support programs consistent with WLCJ policy.

ISRAEL

WOMEN OF THE WALL 2010

Background

In Israel today, the historic Western Wall, known as the Kotel, a holy site for all Jews, is under the religious authority of the Orthodox rabbinate, which affords limited rights to women in the practice of Jewish ritual in its precincts.

In 1988, Women of the Wall (WOW) was founded as an outcome of the first International Jewish Feminist Conference in Jerusalem. Women of the Wall (WOW) asserted women's rights to pray as a group at the Kotel, to read from a Torah scroll and to wear tallitot. Their attempts to assert these rights were met by verbal and physical abuse by Orthodox men at the Kotel.

In 1991, WOW petitioned the Supreme Court of Israel to have their right to religious freedom and ritual recognized on the grounds that the Kotel does not belong solely to the Orthodox establishment, arguing that they should be permitted to worship at the Kotel in safety and security. In 1994 following extensive debate by the Court, WOW's petition was denied; however the Court ruled that a commission be set up to resolve the issue. A series of commissions followed with WOW returning to the Court with each commission.

In May 2000, the Court ruled in favor of WOW's claim and granted the women the right to wear tallitot, pray aloud and read from a Torah scroll at the Kotel. The State appealed and the Court's decision was overturned.

In 2005, a panel of nine judges in a 5 to 4 decision ruled against WOW's latest petition in the interest of "public order" making it illegal to read aloud from the Torah or to wear tallitot openly at the Kotel. WOW was allocated a special area known as Robinson's Arch, an archaeological site out of sight of the Kotel.

Though small in number, Women of the Wall have garnered considerable international support, while continuing their struggle for religious equity despite constant abuse, both verbal and physical from members of the ultra-Orthodox community. The group continues to worship at the Kotel every Rosh Chodesh and also to read the megillot on Purim and Tisha b'Av.

WHEREAS the Kotel is a place dear to the heart of every Jew and must truly remain a place that unifies rather than separates Jews

WHEREAS the Kotel symbolizes the Jewish people's return to Zion in the twentieth century

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism

1. Stands with Women of the Wall, affirming our unity as a single Jewish world-wide community,

2. Urges the municipality of Jerusalem and the State of Israel to take immediate steps to promote religious pluralism, provide equitable treatment to non-Orthodox streams of Jewish life and end the harassment of women seeking to pray with dignity at the Kotel,
3. Calls for police protection against the hateful behavior manifested toward Women of the Wall,
4. Calls upon the Rabbi of the Holy Places to exert leadership in quelling the behavior of hate and disdain toward Women of the Wall witnessed at the Kotel.

RELEASE OF ISRAELI CAPTIVES

Background

“*Zedek zedek tirdof*. Justice, justice shalt thou pursue.” (Deuteronomy 16:20)

These words underline a fundamental value in Judaism. The case of captured soldier Gilad Shalit and that of the six missing soldiers Zecharia Baumel, Zvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, Ron Arad, Guy Hever (last seen in August, 1997) and Majdy Halabi (last seen May 24, 2005) is a basic violation of justice and must be remedied forthwith. Women’s League for Conservative Judaism (WLCJ) has taken a stand on the Gilad Shalit case through its response to Action Alerts and other measures. However, in view of the intransigence of the captors, WLCJ needs to heighten its efforts and use other measures in this matter.

Gilad Shalit was kidnapped on June 25, 2006, from within Israeli territory in an unprovoked attack by Hamas terrorists resulting in the death of two Israeli soldiers and the wounding of five others at the same time as the capture of Shalit.

In violation of international law, Gilad Shalit has been kept in total isolation in some secret place and his captors have not allowed any one from the International Red Cross or any other humanitarian body to see or talk to him. The last recorded message about Shalit was a video released on October 2, 2009. More than four years after his capture, Gilad Shalit still remains in isolation.

The parents of Gilad Shalit, Aviva and Noam Shalit, have tried a variety of measures to keep their son’s case in the public eye in the hope that humanitarian agencies will come to the rescue of their son.

WHEREAS prisoners held by Israel are permitted contact with some outside source, in Gilad Shalit’s case and in the cases of the six other missing soldiers, there is no current evidence as to their condition and location. This is against the Geneva Convention.

WHEREAS WLCJ has access to international forums and world leaders in their NGO status at the United Nations, their part in the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations and through efforts of individual members who have access to public officials as well as the media

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women’s League for Conservative Judaism use its human resources to tell the story of Gilad Shalit and the six missing soldiers to the American public and its elected representatives, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that WLCJ urge its members to contact and petition the American Red Cross to join the initiatives of Magen David Adom to gain International Red Cross access to Gilad Shalit with the immediate visitation of Gilad Shalit and gaining of information on the whereabouts of the six other missing soldiers.

UNITED NATIONS

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY

April 2, 2011

Background

Deeply concerned by the prevalence and high rate of Autism in children in all regions of the world, the General Assembly has designated 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day. By its resolution 62/139 of 18 December 2007, the Assembly encouraged Member States to take measures to raise awareness throughout society regarding children with Autism.

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life and results from a neurological disorder. It affects the functioning of the brain and is characterized by impairments in social interaction, problems with verbal and non-verbal communication and restrictive, repetitive behavior, interests and activities. Autism affects children in all regions irrespective of gender, race or socio-economic status. It poses challenges to long term health care, education, training and intervention programs, and has tremendous impact on children, their families and communities.

WHEREAS Women's League for Conservative Judaism has adopted a resolution at its biennial convention of 2008 fostering Autism awareness among our participating Sisterhoods

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism encourage its Sisterhoods to observe United Nations Autism Awareness Day on April 2, 2011 and all subsequent years.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CHEMISTRY

Stressing that education in and about Chemistry is critical in addressing challenges such as global climate change, in providing sustainable sources of clean water, food, energy and in maintaining a wholesome environment for the well-being of all people, the General Assembly on 19 December 2008, decided to proclaim 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry (resolution 63/209). It designated UNESCO (United Nations Education, Social and Culture Organization) as the lead agency and focal point of the Year.

The Assembly expressed awareness that the Year also provides the opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women to science on the 100th anniversary of the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to Maria Sklodowska-Curie. The Year also provides an opportunity to highlight the need for international scientific collaboration on the 100th anniversary of the founding of the International Association of Chemical Societies.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism supports the United Nations resolution declaring 2011 as the International Year of Chemistry, recognizing the importance of Chemistry in maintaining a wholesome global environment and urges Sisterhoods to encourage the pursuit of scientific studies especially for women.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF FORESTS

Recognizing that forests and sustainable forest management can contribute significantly to sustainable development, poverty eradication and the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the General Assembly on 20 December 2006, decided to proclaim 2011 as the International Year of Forests (resolution 61/693). It requested that the Secretariat of the United Nations Forum on Forests, Department of Economic and Social Affairs serve as the focal point for the Year, in collaboration with governments, international, regional and subregional organizations and processes, the Collaborative Partnership on Forests and major relevant groups.

The Assembly invited FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) in particular, as Chair of the Collaborative Partnership on Forests to support implementation of the Year. It encouraged voluntary partnerships among Member States, international organizations and major groups to facilitate and promote activities related to the Year at the local and national levels, including creating national committees or designating focal points in their respective countries.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism supports the United Nation's commitment to protect the forests of the world since they are crucial to the survival of the world.

CANADA

CANADA-ISRAEL COMMEMORATIVE STAMP (2010)

Canada Post and Israel Post released a joint international rate commemorative stamp in April 2010 to mark more than 60 years of friendship and strong diplomatic relations between their two countries.

A key strength of Canada and Israel's partnership is the extensive network of social bonds – from Canada's large Jewish community (which stands at about 350,000) to dual Israeli-Canadian citizens – that have given rise to cooperation on many fronts, including culture, education, business and tourism. These strong informal ties have inspired the design for the stamp, which features groups of human figures formed in the shapes of Canada's Maple Leaf and Israel's Star of David. These "people" come together to meet in the middle, a meeting that symbolizes and celebrates the 60 years of friendship that the two countries have shared.

The Canadian Union of Postal Workers expressed a lack of support for the commemorative stamp.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism, an international organization of Jewish women, applaud and commend the Governments of Canada and Israel for creating and issuing and distributing the commemorative stamp to celebrate the enduring friendship between our countries.

BILL C-37: AMENDING THE CANADIAN CITIZENSHIP ACT TO STREAMLINE THE REVOCATION AND REMOVALS PROCESS (2010)

The current Canadian Citizenship Act provides for revoking citizenship by way of an Order-in-Council if it is found that they have obtained their citizenship by fraud, false representation or by knowingly concealing material circumstances (for example, by knowingly concealing information that could have impacted their eligibility for citizenship or permanent residence). This process is complex and time consuming

Since 1977, when the current revocation process was put in place, 63 people in total have had their citizenship revoked for reasons including fraud related to residence, criminality, war crimes and false identity. Seven of those revocations were issued for reasons of concealing involvement in war crimes.

WHEREAS the Government of Canada has tabled Bill C-37 which proposes to streamline the revocation process by moving to a judicial model,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism, an organization of Jewish women:

1. supports Bill C-37 - the amendment of the Canadian Citizenship Act to streamline the revocation and removals process.
2. supports Women's League for Conservative Judaism Canadian members in urging federal and provincial authorities to address this amendment.

DRAMATIC RISE IN CASES OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASES IN CANADA – 2010

A report entitled, “Rising Tide: The Impact of Dementia on Canadian Society”, released by the Alzheimer Society in January 2010 revealed alarming new statistics about a significant rise in Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias in Canada in the next 30 years. It states that if nothing changes, the prevalence of dementia will more than double in 30 years, with the costs increasing ten-fold.

The report outlines a series of potential interventions that could help minimize the impact of the disease (increasing physical activity, programs to delay onset of dementia, caregiver training and support, and system navigation/case manager to each newly diagnosed patient to provide care coordination) all showed the potential for dramatic reductions in economic impact over the next 30 years

WHEREAS the report identifies a higher incidence of dementia amongst the female population

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Women’s League for Conservative Judaism, encourages the Canadian federal and provincial governments to:

1. Accelerate investment in all areas of dementia research.
2. Ensure an increased recognition of the importance of prevention and early intervention.

TEXTING WEBSITE TEACHING TEENS SAFE, RESPECTFUL TEXTING PRACTICES (2010)

In January 2010, The Canadian Centre for Child Protection, a charitable organization dedicated to the personal safety of all children whose goal is to reduce child victimization by providing programs and services to Canadians and the Canadian Wireless Telecommunications Association (CWTA) launched textED.ca, an innovative and interactive website designed to teach teens to be safe, responsible and respectful users of texting technologies.

WHEREAS concerns surrounding teens sending sexual messages, nude photos and videos via text messaging is on the rise, yet the vast majority of kids doing so are unaware of the short-term costs and the long-term ramifications associated with their actions.

WHEREAS the textED.ca website incorporates games, quizzes, discussion pages, downloadables, and other fun tools to help them navigate through the issues.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Women's League for Conservative Judaism, an international organization of Jewish women, supports the creation of this important resource for Canadian adolescents.
