



WOMEN OF REFORM JUDAISM
 633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017
 Phone: 212.650.4066 Toll Free: 866.WRJ.5924 Fax: 212.650.4059
ckunin@urj.org www.WomenofReformJudaism.org

WRJ CRITICAL ISSUES ACTION AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

This table describes advocacy actions taken by Women of Reform Judaism on behalf of our 500 sisterhoods and recommendations made to sisterhoods for local, state/provincial, or national advocacy and community service.

Justice, justice shall you pursue...Deuteronomy 16:20

Date	Subject/Issue	WRJ Action
August 22, 2008	Gun Control	WRJ signed on to an interfaith community letter to the House of Representatives opposing a bill that would allow unfettered access to dangerous weapons in the District of Columbia.
August 20, 2008	Health/ Economic Justice	WRJ signed on to a coalition letter urging congressional leaders to pass a second economic stimulus measure, which includes a temporary increase for states in the federal Medicaid match.
August 13, 2008	<i>To The Point: Poverty</i>	WRJ urged sisterhoods to participate in a campaign to make addressing poverty in the United States a government priority.
August, 2008	Hate Crimes	WRJ signed on to a joint policy statement on hate crimes and public policy regarding hate crimes against homeless individuals and endorsed the Hate Crimes Against the Homeless Statistics Act of 2007.
July 30, 2008	Juvenile Justice	WRJ signed on to a letter to the chair and ranking member of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary opposing an amendment to the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, which would remove from federal judges the decision of whether a youth should be prosecuted as an adult and instead give the decision to prosecutors.
July 28, 2008	Civil Rights	WRJ signed on to a letter to the Senate in support of the Americans with Disabilities Amendments Act.
July 9, 2008	Juvenile Justice	WRJ signed on to a letter to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary calling for an amendment within the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act to phase out the placement of youth with non-criminal offenses into juvenile corrections facilities.
July 8, 2008	Public Education	WRJ signed on to a letter to the Senate Committee on Appropriations opposing the funneling of public funds to private and religious schools through vouchers and urging opposition to the reauthorization or continued funding of the Washington, D.C., voucher program. The 2007 and 2008 congressionally mandated evaluations found no significant differences in academic achievement between voucher students and those in the Washington, D.C. public schools.
July 1, 2008	Economic Justice	WRJ signed-on to a letter to congress calling for expanded eligibility for the refundable Child Tax Credit to families with earnings of \$8,500 per year.
June 27, 2008	<i>To The Point: Hunger</i>	WRJ alerted sisterhoods to the rapidly increasing need for food assistance in our communities and how each sisterhood can help.
June 24, 2008	Public Education	WRJ signed on to a letter from leaders of diverse faith communities to the House Committee on Appropriations opposing the reauthorization and continued federal funding of the District of Columbia private school voucher program because it does not significantly improve student achievement.

June 19, 2008	Reproductive Health	WRJ signed on to a letter urging President Bush not to take any action that would undermine the Title X family planning program, which provides reproductive healthcare for low-income Americans.
June 17, 2008	Reproductive Health	WRJ signed on to an organizational letter to the U.S. House Appropriations Committee to increase funding to the Centers for Disease Control Infertility Prevention Program.
June 16, 2008	Public Education	WRJ signed on to a letter initiated by The National Coalition for Public Education opposing reauthorization of the Washington, D.C. voucher program, the only federally funded school voucher program.
June 13, 2008	Darfur	WRJ signed on to a letter to the Permanent U.S. Representative to the U.N., Dr. Zalmay Khalizad, serving in June as president of the U.N. Security Council, to build a unified international response to the continued violence in Darfur.
June 13, 2008	Darfur	Shelley Lindauer, WRJ executive director, sent a letter to President Bush urging use of the opportunity provided in June by the U.S. presidency of the U.N. Security Council to seek full deployment of the peacekeeping force in Darfur.
June 11, 2008	Reproductive Rights and Health	WRJ signed on to a letter to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance opposing the proposed 18-month extension of the abstinence-only-until-marriage program.
June 10, 2008	Health	WRJ signed on to a letter to the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance advocating health reform as a top priority.
June 9, 2008	Public Education	WRJ signed on to a National Coalition for Public Education letter urging the House Appropriations Committee to let the D.C. voucher program expire. WRJ opposes the funneling of public money to private and religious schools through vouchers.
May 16, 2008	Breast Cancer	WRJ endorsed the Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Act.
May 14, 2008	<i>To The Point: Cyclone Nargis, Economic Justice, and Violence Against Women</i>	WRJ alerted sisterhoods to inform their members about Cyclone Nargis and how to provide help and called on sisterhoods to urge Congress to help those hurt by the recession and to pass the International Violence Against Women Act.
May 8, 2008	Interreligious Affairs	WRJ signed on to a letter to the delegates of the United Methodist Church General Conference to express appreciation for the recognition given by the conference for Holocaust awareness and commemoration, fighting anti-Semitism, and opposing proselytization of Jews.
May 8, 2008	Global Health	WRJ signed on to a letter to Senate leadership urging consideration and passage of the U.S. Global HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Leadership Act of 2008.
May 6, 2008	<i>To The Point: Israel</i>	WRJ alerted sisterhoods to commemorate Israel's 60 th anniversary.
April 29, 2008	Public Education	WRJ signed on to National Coalition for Public Education letter opposing funding for vouchers in Washington D.C.
April 22, 2008	<i>To The Point: Economic Justice</i>	WRJ alerted sisterhoods to urge their senators to restore protections against pay discrimination.
April 21, 2008	Reproductive Health	WRJ signed on to the National Coalition to Support Sexuality Education statement for submission at the 4/23 congressional oversight hearing on the public health and ethical concerns with abstinence-only-until-marriage programs domestically.
April 13 -14, 2008	Global Poverty: Women and Girls	As a member of the Women, Faith, and Development Alliance, WRJ leaders participated in launching a new initiative, placing girls and women at the focal point of the fight against global poverty. WRJ made a commitment to focus its new programming and enhanced advocacy efforts on reducing women's poverty and promoting their well-being world wide.