

Rabbi John Rosove
CHAIR

July 18, 2017

Rabbi Joshua Weinberg
PRESIDENT

Dear Friend,

Susan Longo
SENIOR VICE-CHAIR

On June 25, the Israeli cabinet capitulated to extremist pressure and froze its agreed-upon plan to develop an egalitarian worship space at the Western Wall (*Ha-Kotel Ha-Ma'aravi*). On the same day, it advanced a bill that would grant the ultra-Orthodox Chief Rabbinate exclusive control over conversions in Israel.

Lenore Mass
VICE-CHAIR, ALLOCATIONS

Michael Laufer VICE-CHAIR,
BUDGET AND FINANCE

Health Minister Yaakov Litzman of the Haredi United Torah Judaism Party welcomed the Cabinet decision as a victory over liberal Jews. According to him, "This decision sends a clear message to the entire world that **Reform Judaism has no access to or recognition at the Western Wall.**"

Peter Savitz VICE-
CHAIR, MEMBERSHIP

Wally Knox VICE-CHAIR,
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

ARZA – THE ASSOCIATION OF REFORM ZIONISTS OF AMERICA - is part of an international network of like-minded, progressive Jewish voices, working in unison to build a better, more democratic, pluralistic Israel. ARZA strongly condemned both of those outrageous actions by the Israeli government and is committed to speaking up for Reform Jews in Israel.

Rabbi Bennett Miller
IMMEDIATE PAST-CHAIR, EX-OFFICIO

ARZA has been on the forefront for forty years, supporting programming for congregational lay leaders involved with Israeli issues, NFTY, and Birthright-Israel. We also provide major support to developing Reform/Progressive synagogues and affiliated Jewish Day schools in Israel.

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Non-Orthodox Jews in Israel need our ongoing help, now more than ever. Religious freedom and the very soul of the Jewish state are at risk.

Now is the time to join ARZA at www.arza.org/donation Your support is vital in advancing a progressive Zionist vision for Israel.

Membership is only \$50 per household and the funds go a long way to provide direct support for the Reform Movement in Israel. Funds also enable programming assistance for educators and representation at the World Zionist Congress, which gives us the voice and the financial leverage needed to positively impact Reform institutions in Israel.

Thank you for your help,

Rabbi John Rosove – Chair, ARZA
Peter Savitz - Vice President – Membership, ARZA
Rabbi Josh Weinberg – President, ARZA