



הארגון הבינלאומי של עורכי-דין ומשפטנים יהודים (ע"ר)  
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH LAWYERS AND JURISTS (R.A.)

On August 31, 2017, the High Court of Justice will conduct a hearing on the petition submitted by Women of the Wall, and the Reform and Conservative movements, who are asking to change the status quo at the Western Wall in order to immediately allow mixed prayer service at the Wall.

The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists, of which I am president, sees this issue as a violation of basic human rights and specifically an impingement on freedom of religion. The IAJLJ's statement:

*The International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists (IAJLJ), as an international organization representing Jewish lawyers and jurists from all streams and expressions of Judaism in over 30 countries and dedicated, inter alia, to promoting religious freedom and tolerance internationally, strongly supported the Israeli Government's agreement to create an official space for egalitarian prayer at the Kotel. The association is deeply disappointed by the Government's decision to delay the execution of the agreement in order to find an alternative. The IAJLJ is also concerned by the Government's support for the Conversion Bill which aims to delegitimize conversions to Judaism performed outside the Israeli Chief Rabbinate. We believe it is necessary to find a just resolution whereby Israel grants equal recognition of all streams of Judaism so that a coercive state monopoly over all Jewish religious matters will not lie in the hands of one particular minority group out of the entire Jewish people.*

*We call on the Government to adhere to the spirit of the Declaration of Independence committing the State of Israel to "guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations." We maintain that these values require the Government to find a just resolution that effectively reflects the equality of all streams of Judaism.*

Adv. Irit Kohn, President