



Rabbi Michael Dolgin, Cantor Katie Oringel and our youth attend the bat mitzvah of our member at the Wall during our teen travel program, spring 2017.

We must reject recent government actions in Israel. Stay informed! Stay involved!

This past Sunday was a dark day for all who love the State of Israel. By giving in to the pressure of Ultra-Orthodox, non-Zionist political parties, Israel's current governing coalition accepted two positions that insulted and demeaned Jews around the world and in our beloved homeland. The freezing of the Western Wall compromise indicated that cynical, small-minded politics are more important than the unity and mutual respect of all Jews. This response to Haredi political pressure announced that, for the moment, coalition agreements are more important than relations between the State of Israel and the diaspora. The Kotel is a central Jewish symbol, and so much more to Temple Sinai. Celebrations like the recent Bat Mitzvah of a member at the Kotel in March are in jeopardy without proper recognition and representation at the Egalitarian section of the Wall.

On the same day, the government gave initial assent to a conversion bill that would annul all Reform, Conservative and Orthodox conversions carried out in Israel that are not under the auspices of the Ultra-Orthodox chief rabbinate. As disrespectful of rabbis and their movements as this legislation is, it is an even greater blow to over 100,000 Olim from the former Soviet Union and elsewhere whose Jewish status is unrecognized by the Chief Rabbinate's extremist authorities who are out of touch with today's Israel.

The Jewish world has responded with one voice. The Jewish Agency for Israel, the Jewish Federations of North America, the worldwide Reform movement, ARZA-Canada and every major community organization and stream has rejected these decisions and called on the Government of Israel to reverse course immediately. I have communicated the strength of our convictions to community and Rabbinic leaders and to our Consul General of Israel here in Toronto. We must continue to speak up and speak out, because of our love for the State of Israel and our desire to cement the bonds that unite us through the next generations.

When the call to action goes out, we will respond for the good of Israel's future! But today, stay informed by reading from the links to the right. Stay involved! The powerful response of the Jewish Agency would not be possible without strong Reform Zionist voices like ARZA-Canada. If you are not already a member, make sure to become one when you renew your connection to the Sinai family this summer. Only strength in numbers will give us the voice we need to build a proud, democratic, Jewish pluralistic State of Israel!



Rabbi Michael Dolgin