

Commission on Social Action: The Role of Commission Members

*God says, "Cry with a full throat, do not hold back;
let your voice resound like a Shofar!"
(Isaiah 58:1)*

The Commission on Social Action (CSA) of Reform Judaism is a joint commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism and its affiliates (WRJ, MRJ, NFTY, HUC-JIR, ARZA, etc.). The CSA and the RAC inspire and implement the social justice policy positions of the Union for Reform Judaism and Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR).

Essential Functions

The CSA functions as a deliberative, policy-development and leadership body, bringing the vision of Reform Judaism to issues of social justice. The CSA provides governance for itself and the Religious Action Center (RAC). The CSA is involved with social justice education, programming, advocacy, and leadership development within the congregations and affiliates of the Reform Movement. Its members engage congregations and constituencies to advocate at the federal, state and local levels for the positions which the CSA and/or the URJ and the CCAR have adopted. The goal of this work is to empower the Reform Movement to realize its social justice agenda.

Meetings

The CSA generally meets in person twice a year, with additional online meetings. Every other year, the CSA meets before, during and after the Consultation on Conscience, the RAC's social justice leadership conference. CSA members are expected to register for and attend the Consultation. Between meetings, task forces, the Planning and Administration Committee and the Executive Committee 'meet' virtually to handle pressing matters.

What is Expected of CSA Members

- Be passionate about social justice;
- Be leaders within their congregation, affiliate/professional organization;
- Attend and actively participate in all CSA in person and virtual meetings;
- Engage in the CSA's work with respect to policy development, education, programming, advocacy activities, and in the development and implementation of the RAC's social justice campaign(s);
- Actively engage in CSA working groups and/or task forces as part of CSA policy-development, strategic planning, campaign, and advocacy activities;
- Act as a liaison between the RAC and Reform congregations (including members, clergy and other professionals), and/or the affiliate/professional organization they represent to publicize RAC priorities, engage congregations/organizations/affiliates, and communicate ideas and concerns to the RAC;
- Recruit leaders of congregations and affiliate organizations to actively engage their constituencies in Reform Movement social justice campaigns;

- Serve as a leader within their congregation and their community in developing and facilitating the Reform Movement's and their congregation's social justice agendas;
- Assist the RAC staff as requested on matters relating to internal operation, congregational and affiliate engagement, and community outreach;
- Communicate their congregation/affiliate/professional organization's ideas and concerns to the RAC; and
- Participate in the RAC's annual campaign to ensure 100% participation.