

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

As attacks on access to reproductive health increase, Reform communities are mobilizing to protect these rights. This cohort will be run in partnership with Women of Reform Judaism.

Reproductive Justice: A Reform Jewish Issue

For nearly 85 years, Women of Reform Judaism has been a leading advocate for reproductive rights and health, adopting more than a dozen [resolutions](#) affirming a strong and vocal stance and mobilizing its members to speak out for the rights of women¹ to exercise moral authority over their own bodies. WRJ was among the first in our Movement to call for access to information about contraception in 1935 and for abortion reform in 1965.

On the matter of abortion, WRJ stated: “We believe that the right to choose on the matter of abortions is a personal decision based on religious, moral or cultural values and beliefs; it should not be determined for others by special interest groups whether religious or otherwise, nor should government be the enforcing agency for their points of view” (Women’s Rights, 1977).

Similarly, the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and other Reform Movement affiliates have [long supported a woman’s right](#) to make decisions about her own reproductive health according to her own beliefs.

Prior to *Roe v. Wade*, the Reform Movement cited a “moral imperative to modernize abortion legislation,” lamenting that “illegal abortions yearly take a tragic and needless toll” ([Abortion Reform](#), 1967). When *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion, the Union for Reform Judaism applauded the decision and issued a resolution opposing government restrictions that would limit access to abortion services ([Abortion](#), 1975 & [Free Choice in Abortion](#), 1981).

In the decades following this landmark court decision, there have been countless attempts to erode the constitutional right to an abortion on both a federal and state-wide level. While *Roe* continues to be the law of the land, subsequent court decisions, federal laws, and state restrictions have made abortion inaccessible, unaffordable, and out of reach for millions of Americans. The state of reproductive choice has never been more at risk.

¹ And other pregnant individuals



Reform Movement Resolutions

CCAR

[Resolution on Abortion \(1974\)](#)

[Resolution on Violence Against Women \(1990\)](#)

[Resolution on International Women's Rights \(1994\)](#)

[Resolution on Violence Against Reproductive Health Clinics \(1995\)](#)

[Resolution on State Restrictions on Access to Reproductive Health Services \(2008\)](#)

URJ

[Abortion Reform \(1967\)](#)

[Abortion \(1975\)](#)

[Resolution on Free Choice in Abortion \(1981\)](#)

[Reproductive Rights \(1990\)](#)

[Resolution on Women's Health \(1993\)](#)

WRJ

[Resolution on Reproductive Rights \(1989\)](#)

[Resolutions, Statements, and Advocacy Alerts on reproductive rights starting in 1935 \(40+ statements\)](#)