

Reproductive Justice Shabbat, Parashat Mishpatim

Advocacy for Abortion Access

<https://www.ncjw.org/act/action/abortion-access-for-all/>

Websites for Background

National Council of Jewish Women Reproductive Guide

http://www.ncjw.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/NCJW_ReproductiveGuide_Final.pdf

My Jewish Learning

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/abortion-in-jewish-thought/>

Chabad

https://www.chabadac.com/library/article_cdo/aid/529077/jewish/Judaism-and-Abortion.htm

Statistics on Unintended Pregnancy

<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/unintended-pregnancy-united-states>

(Impact of prevention!

In 2010, the nationwide public investment in family planning services resulted in \$13.6 billion in net savings from helping women avoid unintended pregnancies and a range of other negative reproductive health outcomes, such as HIV and other STIs, cervical cancer and infertility.⁹

<https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/unintended-pregnancy-united-states>

Articles:

Sheila Katz, NCJW CEO

<https://religionnews.com/2020/01/22/why-roe-v-wade-is-a-first-amendment-fight/>

Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg

<https://forward.com/opinion/393168/why-are-jews-so-pro-choice/>

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMe1910174>

New England Journal of Medicine

Access to legal and safe pregnancy termination, a legal right in the United States for the past 46 years, is essential to the public health of women everywhere. None of us want to return to a time when desperate women, often of limited means, sought unsafe pregnancy terminations and suffered irreversible harm and sometimes death. The decision to terminate a pregnancy is a deeply personal and difficult one that deserves to remain the prerogative of each woman and

her care provider and not to be usurped by the government. There is nothing coercive about *Roe*. Once a woman makes the private decision to follow this path, she should be able to do so in a manner that does not put her or her loved ones at risk. We have lived within the guidance of *Roe v. Wade* for nearly half a century; it has protected women from injury and death.

Jewish Texts on this Issue:

<https://www.sefaria.org/sheets/234926?lang=bi>

Reproductive Justice Points (from NJCW)

Abortion access is an issue of pikuach nefesh (saving lives), and restricting access goes against Jewish values of safety and justice

The US has the highest rate of maternal mortality and morbidity among industrialized countries, with African-Americans and American Indian/Alaska Natives three times more likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than white Americans. (Source) Forcing people to give birth is not just unjust, it endangers them.

·People who are denied access to reproductive health care are more likely to live in poverty and to remain in abusive relationships.

·Restricting abortion access disproportionately impacts those who are already marginalized in our society: People who are struggling financially; Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities; young people; those in rural communities; immigrants; people living with disabilities; and LGBTQ individuals

Over 450 state laws restricting access to reproductive health care have been passed since 2011, ranging from abortion bans to biased counseling mandates to medically unnecessary regulations imposing onerous requirements on providers and patients. Access to abortion is already hanging by a thread for many people across the country, particularly for Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities impacted by systemic racism. More recently, it has been catastrophic also for those whose lawmakers have used the COVID-19 pandemic as an excuse to restrict the right to this basic health care.

Website Resources

Exhale: phone and text line supporting people after abortion

<https://exhaleprovoice.org>

Ritualwell guides and ritual outlines

<https://www.ritualwell.org/search-results?Q=abortion>