

Collected Statements from Jewish Organizations on Reproductive Rights

Jewish Federations of North America: The issue of reproductive rights is of great importance. We are supporting our Federations across the system and providing them with analysis of the decision and its repercussions, as well as informational resources to help them respond to this monumental case. We know this decision will have a tremendous impact on our communities. We pledge to continue our decades-long history of providing support and resources to our health and human service agencies to ensure the well-being and health of all women.

As of 06.30.2022.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- **The Anti-Defamation League (ADL):** The Anti-Defamation League is stunned by today's Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization that overturns the longstanding precedent set by Roe v. Wade affirming the constitutional right to abortion. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Agudath Israel of America:** Agudath Israel of America welcomes Supreme Court overruling Roe v. Wade. We pray that today's ruling will inspire all Americans to appreciate the moral magnitude of the abortion issue, and to embrace a culture that celebrates life. ([Full Statement](#))
- **American Jewish Committee:** American Jewish Committee (AJC) expressed profound disappointment in today's U.S. Supreme Court ruling overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade decision. AJC has long opposed government interference in a woman's right to autonomy over her body and access to medical procedures that affect her own life and her ability – and decision – to bear children. Jewish tradition prioritizes the safety of women carrying a child. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Hadassah:** The Supreme Court's decision is an attack on American women and their rights to healthcare, privacy and autonomy. Hadassah will continue to fight for reproductive rights across the country in light of the latest SCOTUS decision. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA):** The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) strongly condemns today's Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturning Roe v. Wade, holding that there is no longer a right to abortion under the federal constitution. Access to safe, affordable, and legal abortion and reproductive health care is a priority for JCPA. We are outraged by this decision, which we do not believe represents the will of the people nor is in the best interest of the country. ([Full Statement](#)) **NOTE:** The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, a JCPA member, has a standard, long standing policy of not joining in JCPA statements on reproductive rights: “[The Orthodox Union] cannot endorse a public policy that does not reflect the complex response of halacha to the abortion

issue. In most circumstances, the halacha proscribes abortion, but there are cases in which halacha permits and indeed mandates abortion. The question of abortion is a sensitive one and personal decisions in this area should be made in consultation with recognized halachic authorities.”

- **Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA)** (*issued following 5/2 SCOTUS draft leak*): The Supreme Court’s ruling, which overturns federal constitutional protections of privacy and abortion rights that have stood since the landmark 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, will devastate the lives of women across the United States who will lose personal agency over their lives and bodies. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Jewish Women International (JWI)**: We are deeply saddened by the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn the nearly five decades long recognition of a constitutional right to abortion. JWI continues our unwavering support for abortion access. Abortion is a medical decision between a pregnant person and their doctor. All abortions should be legal.
- **Keshet**: “We are devastated by the decision by six Supreme Court justices to strip away the right to abortion. This blatantly partisan upending of a 50 year precedent enables immediate abortion bans and limits in dozens of states and threatens abortion access nationwide. Make no mistake: pregnant people will die as a result of this tragic decision. Abortion access is a Jewish value and a vital part of LGBTQ+ equality. We call on our elected and appointed leaders to use every power that they now hold to ensure no one is forced to stay pregnant against their will.” - Idit Klein, President and CEO of Keshet ([Full Statement](#))
- **National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)**: Today’s decision by the Supreme Court is a moral failure. It will put lives at risk. By overturning 50 years of precedent, safe and vital abortion care is now virtually inaccessible to millions of people who need it. In the weeks and months ahead, we will see the devastating impact this ruling will have on human lives. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies**: With the Supreme Court’s decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health overturning Roe v. Wade, the Court has determined that the right to an abortion is no longer protected by the US Constitution and with this single ruling, has reversed close to 50 years that have supported the health, mental health and personal decision making of women and of families. This ruling challenges the core principles of this Country, namely the protection of privacy and freedom, including religious freedom, and personal choice, while also compromising the principles that guide Jewish human service agencies, namely the right to self-determination.
- **Orthodox Union (OU)** (*issued following 5/2 SCOTUS draft leak*): The Orthodox Union is unable to either mourn or celebrate the news reports of the U.S. Supreme Court’s likely overturning of Roe v Wade. We cannot support absolute bans on abortion—at any time point in a pregnancy—that would not allow access to abortion in lifesaving situations. Similarly, we cannot support legislation that permits “abortion on demand”—at any time point in a pregnancy—and does not confine abortion to situations in which medical (including mental health) professionals affirm that carrying the pregnancy to term poses real risk to the life of the mother. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Rabbinical Assembly (RA)**: The RA is outraged by the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to end the Constitutional right to abortion and deny access to lifesaving medical procedures for millions of individuals in the U.S., in what will be regarded as one of the most extreme instances of governmental overreach in our lifetime. ([Full Statement](#))

- **Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association and Reconstructing Judaism:** The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA) and Reconstructing Judaism denounce the Supreme Court’s decision to suppress both bodily autonomy and religious freedom. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), and Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ):** “We are outraged that the Supreme Court today has stripped women and others who can become pregnant of the fundamental right to make essential health care decisions free of governmental interference. Abortion access is a critical component of reproductive health care. Pregnant individuals are capable of making ethical decisions based on their own beliefs and medical best interest without government officials imposing their personal religious views on others.” ([Full Statement](#))
- **The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ):** Today’s Supreme Court decision overturning Roe v. Wade casts a dark shadow. The Conservative-Masorti movement expresses anger and deep disappointment at the loss of religious freedom and personal autonomy that will result. The nation-wide constitutional argument over whether there is a right to privacy that gives women control over their bodies will be replaced by state-by-state political debates over whether the government can or should substitute its judgment for that of the individual. Congressional and senatorial elections will turn on this issue. States across the country are introducing legislation dealing with the abortion issue. Demonstrations will likely become more frequent, emotions will get hotter, and the shouting will get louder and louder. Civil discourse around this topic has all too frequently been replaced with angry slogans and demonization of opposing views. And sadly, this tendency away from reasoned debate has become all too common in American society. ([Full Statement](#))

LOCAL FEDERATION/JCRC STATEMENTS:

- **Baltimore Jewish Council:** The Baltimore Jewish Council opposes government interference with the decision of a woman, in voluntary consultation with her family, her doctor, or her clergy, to determine all aspects of her reproductive life. Jewish law is also clear that when the life of the mother is at stake, Jewish law not only permits, but also actually compels, the mother to abort the fetus to save her own life. ([Full Statement](#))
- **JCRC of Greater Boston:** The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston (JCRC) today joins with the majority of Americans and the vast majority of American Jews - who support the preservation of the constitutional right to personal control of one’s own reproductive decisions – in expressing our anger and dismay regarding the overturning of Roe v. Wade. ([Full Statement](#))
- **JCRC of Greater Hartford:** The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford decries today’s Supreme Court Ruling overturning Roe v. Wade, a 50-year Constitutional right that respected the right of a woman to choose an abortion within certain parameters. This decision will leave the country divided such that women in some states will have limited or no right to abortion, even in the event of rape or when their physical or mental health is at risk. It is important to recognize that prohibiting total abortion access is contrary to centuries-old Jewish law and traditions, as well as our principal value of saving a life. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ:** Jewish Federation of Greater MetroWest NJ and its partner agencies and synagogues listed below strongly and unequivocally condemn today’s

Supreme Court ruling on Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturning Roe v. Wade. ([Full Statement](#))

- **JCRC of Greater Orlando:** The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater Orlando includes rabbis from different denominations and backgrounds. They may disagree on some points of halakhah (Jewish religious law), but they fully concur that access to safe and legal pregnancy termination stands fully within the boundaries of Judaism's legal framework. ([Full Statement](#))
- **Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia:** As the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, we support the rights and welfare of women, which is why we are deeply troubled by the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization to overturn Roe v. Wade. This ruling not only upends decades of precedent supporting women's health, but also fundamentally infringes on a person's bodily autonomy and their First Amendment civil right to religious liberty. ([Full Statement](#))
- **JCRC of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle:** The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle condemns the Supreme Court ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization overturning Roe v. Wade. We strongly support access to safe, affordable, legal abortion and reproductive health care. We are intensely concerned about the profound impact of this ruling on religious freedom, personal decision-making, and human dignity—issues that are fundamental to our Jewish community in America. The JCRC stands for the foundational principle of separation of religion and state, which prohibits government imposition of religious beliefs on others and is fundamental to the well-being of the Jewish community in America. ([Full Statement](#))
- **JCRC of Greater Toledo:** Earlier today, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, holding that there is no longer a federal constitutional right to an abortion. The opinion expressed in Dobbs v. Jackson is one of the most consequential Supreme Court decision in decades and will transform the landscape of women's reproductive health and religious liberties in America. Overall, Jews are the most in favor of abortion rights of any U.S. religious group. A [2014 Pew Research poll](#) found that 83% of American Jews believe that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. And in Jewish Toledo, 89% of respondents to JCRC's inaugural Community Opinion & Policy Survey last year indicated that they support or strongly support a woman's right to choose as ruled by the Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade in 1973. The Jewish community is not a monolith and Jews disagree on many issues. However, compared to most issues, supporting abortion rights is a consensus issue in the American Jewish community.
- **JCRC of Greater Washington:** The Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Washington (JCRC) today joins the majority of Americans who opposed the overturning of Roe v. Wade in their frustration and anguish at the Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson... The Dobbs ruling constitutes a double infringement on the rights of American Jews. Even under its strictest, most traditional interpretation, Jewish law mandates the termination of a pregnancy in certain circumstances involving the life or health of the mother. While we respect other religions' belief that life begins at conception, Jewish law has no such dictate. Accordingly, a ruling holding that a fetus is a person effectively elevates one religious viewpoint over others and infringes upon Jewish pregnant individuals' right to follow the tenets of their faith. ([Full Statement](#))

- **JCRC of San Francisco:** No official statement, but is sharing a [toolkit](#) outlining the importance of reproductive rights, its legality in Talmudic law, and information about organizations working in different areas of this field, from direct caregiving and services to advocacy work.
- **UJA-Federation of New York:** In the wake of today's Supreme Court decision, we'll be working to provide support and resources to our nonprofit partners to address its repercussions. ([Full Statement](#))