



WOMEN IN THE JEWISH COMMUNITY 1994 Major Recommendations

The 1994 report 'Women in the Jewish Community: Review and Recommendations' presented a large number of recommendations.

These have been evaluated and prioritised. The following have been selected as currently most important. Please read them and answer the questions in the survey.

Education

Hebrew language

As the Hebrew language is a basic source of Jewish identity and a vital tool for furthering Jewish study, both learning and teaching Hebrew should be promoted in a wide range of educational settings.

Jewish educators

The urgent need for suitably qualified and charismatic Jewish educators in communities around the country should be addressed.

Special Needs

Jewish schools should accept children with a statement of special needs so that they may be kept within a Jewish educational setting.

Synagogue and Prayer

Inclusivity

All religious and communal bodies should actively welcome singles - whether young, widowed or divorced - encouraging them to integrate into and participate more fully in the life of the community.

Support for women's participation in ritual and prayer

A women's prayer book should be written that covers all situations involving women in ritual and prayer, including key events in the life cycle and regular domestic situations such as kiddush, havdala and birkat hamazon (grace after meals). These guidelines should be supported by public dissemination of the information by rabbis and teachers.

Equal opportunities to serve in the spiritual life of the community

Women should be accorded equal opportunities to serve in all areas of synagogue management and spiritual life, wherever halachah permits.

Social Issues

Singles and the community

Community policy should be directed at increasing facilities appropriate for the unattached of all ages. This would encourage women alone to become involved in community activities.

Marriage and family life

Resources, courses and programmes should be created and/or updated for all age groups, providing a clear understanding of the duties and responsibilities of Jewish marriage and family life.

Visiting

Community arrangements for home and hospital visiting should be strengthened, better to identify and address the needs of the sick and elderly.

Bereavement

Each synagogue should enlist a group of men and women willing to offer immediate friendship and support to bereaved congregants.

Children

Facilities

Community facilities - including synagogue premises - should be made available, at an affordable rate and particularly after school hours and during school holidays. This would enable working mothers and single parents to leave their children in a safe and caring Jewish environment.

Counselling

Help and counselling should be readily available to families with children with special needs.

Training

Lay and professional community members should be trained to understand the needs of carers of children with special needs.

"Jewish grannies"

The community should set funds aside so that older women, who have time available and wish to be involved, can be trained and employed as "Jewish grannies".