



The Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) is having its annual convention from Sunday, April 25 - Tuesday, April 27 in Scarsdale, New York. The issue of women in religious leadership roles is featured prominently on the agenda, with multiple sessions devoted to the topic including one calling for the establishment of an official RCA position.

As the major rabbinic arm in the Orthodox world, the Rabbinical Council of America (RCA) is in a position to demonstrate its support of women in leadership roles. An official RCA policy on women's leadership roles has the potential to enable motivated and learned women to assume leadership positions in our schools, synagogues and other religious institutions, thereby strengthening the Jewish community.

You can make a difference! Talk with your rabbi about the importance of supporting women's leadership in your community and at the convention:

- Let him know that you strongly desire to see efforts and support from the RCA to enable women to assume positions of religious communal leadership.
- Encourage him to attend the convention and urge the RCA to focus on finding new ways for this motivated group of learned women to contribute their skills, passion and expertise to the Jewish community.
- Ask him to encourage the RCA to help find places for female leaders in our religious institutions, enabling them to transmit their knowledge and expertise to others.

**עת לחשות ועת לדבר (קהלת ג, ז)
A time to keep silent and a time to speak out (Ecclesiastes 3,7)**

Now is the time to let the RCA know how you envision the future of Orthodoxy.

Read these articles, blog posts, letters to learn more about the issues slated for discussion at the RCA convention and for talking points to use in your conversations with your RCA rabbis:

- Two letters that JOFA sent to the RCA:
<http://www.jofa.org/pdf/Letters%20to%20RCA%20Leadership%20for%20Website.pdf>
- Letter to Rabbinical Council of America to Support Women's Leadership Roles, a petition independently initiated by and crafted by college women: <http://www.petitiononline.com/rca613/petition.html>
- The Jewish Week- Gary Rosenblatt – RCA to Set Rules on Women's Roles
http://www.thejewishweek.com/news/new_york/rca_set_rule_women%27s_roles
- JTA – Ben Harris- Orthodox rabbinical parley to address women's leadership
<http://www.jta.org/news/article/2010/04/19/1011656/upcoming-rabbinical-parley-to-address-womens-leadership>
- YU Observer – Ilana Hostyk- In Defense of Rabba Hurwitz
<http://media.www.yuobserver.com/media/storage/paper989/news/2010/04/19/Opinion/In.Defense.Of.Rabba.Hurwitz-3907713-page3.shtml>
- The Forward Sisterhood Blog – Debra Nussbaum Cohen- The Truth about Modern Orthodox Jews and Gender
<http://blogs.forward.com/sisterhood-blog/127347/>
- The Forward Sisterhood Blog- Elana Sztokman – Jewish Feminists Take on the RCA
<http://blogs.forward.com/sisterhood-blog/127340/>