Food for Thought this Purim: Would Queen Esther be welcome to pray at the Kotel?

And Who Would Welcome Her on the Bimah?

This Purim, as we celebrate Queen Esther’s courage and determination. She saved the Jewish people! We should reflect on the limits placed today on women’s prayer at the Kotel. To this day, years after an agreement was made and remains unfulfilled, women choosing to pray at the Kotel are subject to harassment. And this is just one egregious example of the disparity in the treatment of women. In many kehillot, women still sit behind a mechitza and are not given the honor of an aliya at the bimah.

But despite these obstacles, we should also happily reflect on the incredible progress made by Masorti’s women rabbis. We’re blessed with so many strong, talented and inspiring rabbis from diverse backgrounds. They’re dynamic leaders of their communities. Women can be the vanguard -- promoting the Masorti
values we cherish of egalitarianism, inclusivity, diversity and democracy.

Rabbi Dikla Druckman

Rabbi Deby Grinberg-Wajnberg

Rabbi Nathalie Lastreger

Rabbi Chaya Rowen Baker

Masorti Women Rabbis of the Future

Rabbi Liron Levi

Support Masorti’s Women Rabbis

Reflections of the different meanings and teachings of Purim from our rabbis:

Rabbi Druckman: "Esther...discovers her abilities, stands up for her opinions and takes advantage of her position of power to influence the fate of her people."

Rabbi Lastreger: "...this is how we are expected to act, to wake from our hibernation, and rise above ourselves, to do the unexpected, and to contribute to activities in the community, and in the society that surrounds us...these actions will bring about blessings and joy, here and everywhere."

Rabbi Levi: "...all members of the Jewish people are responsible for another, and that as individuals we can save a soul or even bring redemption to all
Rabbi Rowen-Baker: "...in every situation in which we find ourselves, we must ask in what way we can leverage that place that we have arrived at to do good."

Rabbi Grinberg-Wajnberg: "An important message I have gained from the character of Esther...is first of all never to conceal ourselves as women and never hide the inner and outer strength that we possess."

Read the full story of these amazing women, how and why they became rabbis and why they chose to be Masorti rabbis. It will inspire you this Purim and for long after.

Ensure a better, more egalitarian, inclusive future for the next generation of Queen Esthers. This Purim, give a gift to support Masorti's women rabbis.

Hag Purim Sameach!

Support Masorti's Women Rabbis