

Hello,

On Saturday night, Tisha B'Av, the saddest day in the Jewish calendar, there was a terrible incident at the Kotel. A fringe Orthodox group of (mainly teen) protestors entered the egalitarian prayer area where worshipers were reading from the Book of Lamentations. They tried to set up a *mechitza* (physical separation between men and women) and hurled abuse at the non-Orthodox Jews praying there, severely interrupting the ongoing service.



The St. Paul Jewish Federation strongly condemns this violation of a sacred space and the targeting of Conservative and Reform Jews. We thank Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, President Isaac Herzog and Foreign Minister Yair Lapid for their swift denunciation of these acts.

This incident demonstrates the need to implement immediately the carefully negotiated Western Wall Compromise, abandoned four years ago, calling for a pluralistic prayer platform at the Kotel.

Jewish Federations of North America has prepared a backgrounder on the troubling event and the issue, which can be [seen here](#).

As *Klal Israel* (All of Israel), we are responsible for each other regardless of differences in ideology and practice. Let us work together to ensure fair access to the Kotel for Jews of every denomination.

L'shalom,



Rick Linsk, President



Ted Flaum, CEO

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