

The Israel Religious Expression Platform (iRep)

What is iRep?

- The Israel Religious Expression Platform, iRep, is an initiative of Jewish federations that works to encourage respect for diverse expressions of Judaism in Israel. iRep was formed as an outcome of the Global Planning Table initiative.
- As part of the Jewish Federation system, iRep convenes federations and foundations from across North America to form a unique consortium advancing pluralism and freedom of expression in Israel.
- iRep's mission is to impact a range of issues related to increasing religious diversity in Israel. iRep strives to promote and advance meaningful change to the religion-state status quo. The first issue iRep invested in is expanding the range of legally-recognized options for marriage in Israel which would also impact divorce.
- Today iRep expanded its work to promote choice in Jewish identity and practice as the default for every Jew in Israel. iRep invests in building collaborations and infrastructure which make the multiple options for Jewish expression accessible, legitimate and sustainable.
- iRep acts to enhance Israel's civil society and to strengthen Israel's relationship with North American Jewry based on mutual recognition of and respect for diverse Jewish expressions.
- iRep works by providing support to Israeli civil society organizations, and is able to bring together diverse Israeli organizations- Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, secular, LGBTQ, Russian speaking Israelis and traditional (masorti) Israelis - to collaborate in advancing the issues.
- 34 Federations and one Jewish foundation are members of iRep: Ann Arbor, The Berkshires, Boston, Broward County, Buffalo, Charleston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cincinnati, Colorado, Greater Metro West, Greensboro, El Paso, Houston, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Louisville, Madison, Miami, Milwaukee, Nashville, New York, North Eastern Florida, North Eastern New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Princeton-Mercer-Bucks, Rochester, San Diego, San Francisco, Southern New Jersey, St. Louis, St. Paul, Western Massachusetts and Gorlin Family Foundation.

Why Is This Important?

- Membership in iRep demonstrates Jewish Federations' relevance for Jews from all denominations, including the unaffiliated, by promoting an acceptance of diverse Jewish practice in Israel. iRep provides a platform for Jewish Federations to collaborate on shared interests and an opportunity to leverage their support collectively.
- iRep creates opportunities to educate Jewish leadership about the complexity of Israeli society, the progress that has been made over the past few decades, and the challenges that still lay ahead.
- iRep collaborates with Israeli organizations working on the ground to promote freedom of choice in marriage, greater acceptance of diversity and inclusion for all Jewish expressions. This creates opportunities engagement for the younger generation with other young Israeli activists from diverse backgrounds, ethnicities and traditions.
- iRep's work empower Israelis who work on the ground to promote Jewish diversity and enable Jewish Federations to collaborate strategically with Israelis from all sectors who share the vision for a more inclusive Israel.

For more information on iRep's work and membership, contact Einat Hurvitz, Director of iRep at Einat.Hurvitz@JewishFederations.org.