



Dear <<First Name>>,

Please note – before reading this – there is some graphic description of the Hamas brutality unleashed on women in this Shabbat message.

When the #metoo movement started, like so many other women, I quietly reflected on my own life and simply added to my profile #metoo. I thought about an incident when I was 20 and came forward, only to be terribly disheartened and truly angered by the response. At twenty I was rightfully indignant, and I raised my voice loudly, only for it to be dismissed. As a result, the second time, I said nothing. It still haunts me to this day.

Not surprisingly, there was a third and fourth time because being a woman it is virtually impossible to escape sexism, misogyny, and all forms of harassment throughout one's lifetime. From an unwanted comment or inappropriate touch to violent sexual assault, I am not sure I know of a woman who hasn't dealt with some form of harassment. None of it is okay.

Similarly, I am not sure I know of a Jew who has not faced antisemitism. None of it is okay.

As more horrific details come to light over the brutal rape, mutilation, and violence perpetrated against women by Hamas, and as we learn of the inhumane treatment of women and children held hostage by Hamas while the Red Cross and UNWRA turn a blind eye, women are feeling particularly vulnerable and abandoned by those purporting to be human right activists who support all women's rights.

A grassroots movement has emerged [#MeToo_UNless_UR_a_Jew](#) which is a global campaign founded in the wake of Hamas's October 7 terror attack in Israel. This movement was established to hold accountable the organization UN Women for failing to recognize the hundreds of women who were brutally murdered, mutilated, and raped by Hamas. This organization has blatantly and unapologetically ignored the violence perpetrated against Israeli and Jewish women and is actively creating a false and insidious narrative.

UN Women claims that it is a global champion for gender equality. On their website, it says that UN Women is the UN organization delivering programs, policies, and standards that uphold women's human rights and ensure that every woman and girl lives up to her full potential. Certainly, no one should be surprised that an organization that is a subsidiary of the United Nations is blatantly disregarding Israel and Jewish women, with its record of demonstrated bias toward Israel. In 2016 the ADL published this report [The United Nations, Israel and Anti-Semitism](#) | [ADL](#) and the UN's clear bias has only compounded in years since.

This blatant slap in the face to Jewish women stings bitterly and is exacerbated by every human rights organization that has remained silent on antisemitism and the war crimes perpetrated by Hamas on women and girls in Israel. International law clearly defines sexual violence as a distinct war crime. Unlike the Nazis who tried to hide their brutality, Hamas proudly recorded its rampage and shared it triumphantly. Women were raped until their pelvises broke. Women were found with knives in their vaginas and their breasts cut off. Once women were brutalized and victimized, sometimes while their husbands were made to watch and then they were shot point blank in the head. At the Nova music festival women were gang raped while others were also forced to watch. We do not know what has happened to young women who are still held hostage by Hamas.

The [#MeToo_UNless_UR_a_Jew](#) movement continues to hold the world accountable for these crimes. On Monday, December 4, people will be protesting in front of the United Nations expressing outrage that brutality against Jewish women and girls is being dismissed from the human rights agenda. This movement recognizes and honors that every woman's life is precious and that no side of any story should be deliberately excluded. Many community members continue to ask me how they can help. If #youtoo believe that every woman's life is valuable, join the effort in holding all those accountable who do not by signing the petition on the website of

[#MeToo_UNless_UR_a_Jew.](#)

As a mother of three boys, I am keenly aware of my unique obligation to raise men who treat all people with dignity and respect. This is not only what our Jewish tradition teaches, but also is a guiding light for civil society. As we hold our families close this Shabbat, let us pray for those still held hostage, let us mourn for the loss of innocence and innocent life, and let us always remember that we must continue to stand proudly with the nation and people of Israel.

Shabbat shalom -



Meredith



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