

Her Excellency Mrs Tzipi Hotovely
The Ambassador to the UK
Embassy of the State of Israel
2 Palace Green
Kensington
London
W8 4QB

16 June 2021

Your Excellency,

I am writing to you to express my serious concern about the violent harassment of women worshipping at the Kotel last week by a small number of extremists. This incident took place during the Women of the Wall's monthly service and saw not just verbal abuse thrown at the worshipers but also the desecration of their siddurim.

The Kotel is a holy place for Jews of all denominations and its sanctity must be respected, along with the right of all Jews to pray there. The disgraceful destruction of holy texts, which contain G-d's word and name, flies in the face of the respect that Jews must have for each other and HaShem.

Unfortunate reports that police stood by and did nothing as this occurred must be fully investigated, as everyone must feel safe visiting and worshipping at the Kotel.

This unfortunate episode highlights the need to revisit the proposal to create an egalitarian section at the Western Wall — giving all Jews the ability to pray at this holy site without fear of harassment. We hope that the new Government will seek to find a resolution to this longstanding issue and would ask you to convey our concerns to the Government.

Yours sincerely,



Marie van der Zyl
President