June 28, 2017

Consul General Judith Varnai Shorer

Consulate General of Israel in Atlanta

1100 Spring St. N.W. Suite 440
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Dear Consul General Shorer,

I am writing to express how very disheartened and dismayed I am by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s recent decision to abandon his commitment to provide egalitarian prayer space at the Western Wall. The Israeli government, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Reform and Conservative movements, Jewish Federations of North America, and the Women of the Wall, spent over three years negotiating a positive solution to allow all Jews, whether Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, the right and privilege to worship in this sacred, holy space.

As you are likely aware, the majority of American Jews identify as Reform or Conservative. We view the Western Wall as a significant piece of our heritage and history. The actions taken by Prime Minister Netanyahu are alarming and deeply concerning.

Another important and deeply concerning issue is that the Israeli government approved a bill to grant authority over conversions to the ultra-Orthodox Chief Rabbinate. This action delegitimizes non-Orthodox Judaism and the millions of Jews around the world who practice it.

These actions will do immeasurable harm to the thriving and vibrant relationship between the Diaspora and Israel. I ask that you convey my concerns and disappointment to the Foreign Ministry, Prime Minister’s office, and all Israeli officials.

Thank you,

Your Name

Address

Email

Phone Number