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### **Women's Fund Helps Israeli Women Navigate Court System**

West Hartford, CT – A grant from the fund for women and children at the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Hartford will help women in Israel traverse the legal system, especially in family legal matters.

The Lillian Fund, which benefits Israeli women and families in need, has awarded a \$6,000 grant to **The Center for Women's Justice** through PEF Israel Endowment Funds.

The Center promotes systemic solutions to the complex religious dilemmas that challenge the status of Jewish women: including, the *agunah*, *get* refusal and conversion. *Agunot* – a halachic term for a Jewish woman who is "chained" to her marriage because her husband's whereabouts are unknown. It is also often used nowadays for a woman whose husband refuses or is unable to grant her an official bill of divorce, known as a *get*.

The Center not only engages in important public education work, but fights for women's rights through the Israeli court system. It has achieved important victories, and is a growing force in confronting the inadequacies and injustices of the rabbinic court system.

Some highlights of the Center's recent work:

- Damage suits in family court – Due to the organization's intervention, a precedent-setting ruling was given imposing a large fine on a husband who refused to grant a *get* in spite of rabbinical ruling. Four more cases are in process.
- Four cases in rabbinical courts handled by the organization resulted in divorces being granted. Seven cases are in process.
- Serving as "friend of the court" in a petition to the Supreme Court by a woman who was ordered by the rabbinical court to pay her husband money for a *get*.

The Lillian Fund is a giving circle whereby men and women pool their resources to make a difference in the lives of women and children in need. The collective giving experience is meaningful for members of the Lillian Fund, who make an annual contribution of \$100 and take part in deciding where grants from the fund are awarded each year.

For more information about the Lillian Fund or to make a contribution, please call the Jewish Community Foundation office at (860) 523-7460.

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## About the Jewish Community Foundation

For 36 years, the Foundation has partnered with individuals, families and community organizations to help them achieve their charitable goals and secure a vibrant Jewish future in Greater Hartford and around the world.