We call on every elected representative of the people to act immediately to implement the Prayer Room Plan, as decided by the government on January 31, 2016.

The situation in the past few months at the Western Wall has become a red light, warning of further serious incidents and bloodshed.

The violence directed against women and egalitarian prayer in the Western Wall has reached new highs – especially in the first month of Tammuz when prayers were interrupted by assailants; and on Tisha B’Av when disturbances were caused by girls and boys who were brought especially to disrupt prayer of Jewish men on the Day of Atonement and Purification.

In addition, there were calls from members of the Knesset in the ultra-Orthodox party, rabbis and public figures who are calling to disrupt the prayer of those who seek to lead prayer in the Western Wall and before the Wall leader, Rabbi Glick.

We call on you to prevent bloodshed and defilement in the holy place of the Jewish people.

We are already informing you today about the immediate implementation of the Prayer Room Plan, which has been approved by the ultra-Orthodox members of Knesset and the Office of the Holy Sites. We inform you that the Western Wall is not a place of strife and violence, there is no place for violence against women who wish to lead prayer.

We call on you, in a prayerful tone – this is not a political matter, but a matter of genuine spirit. We inform you about the immediate implementation of the Prayer Room Plan.

We thank you,
To:
Mr. Isaac Herzog, President
MK Naftali Bennett, Prime Minister
MK Yair Lapid, Alternate Prime Minister of Israel and Minister of Foreign Affairs
Minister Matan Kahana, Minister of Religious Services
Mr. Shalom Shlomo, Cabinet Secretary

Dear Sirs,

Subject: Call for the Prevention of Bloodshed and Immediate Implementation of the “Kotel Agreement”

We, the leadership and leaders of the Masorti movement in Israel and around the world, call on you - our elected officials - to act immediately to implement the outline of the Western Wall Agreement, in accordance with Government Resolution 1075 of 31.01.2016. This is all the more necessary in light of the real threats to the Women of the Wall, who are scheduled to pray tomorrow (Friday, Rosh Chodesh Kislev 5742) as every Rosh Chodesh, at the Western Wall.

The incidents of violence in recent months at the Kotel must be seen as a red flag before more serious incidents of violence and even bloodshed occur.

The violence directed against the Women of the Wall and egalitarian prayers in the Kotel plaza have reached new heights with every passing month. On Rosh Chodesh Tammuz, Siddurim were torn apart by crowds incited to violence and by calls that can only be described as anti-Semitism; On the 9th of Av, the prayers of the streams in the Ezrat Yisrael / Egalitarian section of the Kotel, were interrupted by shouts and incitement by girls and boys who were brought especially to halt the prayers of Jews on this day of fasting for the destruction of the Temples. All of this is in addition to the incitement and the calls of Knesset members from the ultra-Orthodox actions, rabbis and public figures, who have called for harming our members, who only seek to pray in keeping with our custom at the Western Wall, and harm toward MK Rabbi Gilad Kariv.

Please, it is in your power to prevent bloodshed and blasphemy in this place sacred to the entire Jewish people. Announce today the full and immediate implementation of the approved agreement - also accepted by the ultra-Orthodox Knesset members and the Head of Holy sites. Announce, unequivocally, that the Western Wall is not a place for quarrels and violence, that there is no place for harming the Women of the Wall who wish to pray as they have been doing for so many years each month.

Honored officials, we appeal to you - this is not a political matter but a real Matter of Pikuach Nefesh. We call upon you to immediately announced the implementation of the Western Wall Agreement.

Sincerely,

Rakefet Ginsberg
CEO, Masorti Israel

Rabbi Jacob Blumenthal
CEO, USCJ and the Rabbinical Assembly

Rabbi Prof. Bradley Shavit Artson
Dean, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies and Zacharias Frankel College

Rabbi Mikie Goldstein
President, the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel

Rabbi Jennifer Gorman
Executive Director, MERCAZ-Canada

Sarrae G Crane
Executive Director, MERCAZ-USA

Rabbi Mauricio Balter
Executive Director, Masorti & MERCAZ Olami

Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin
President, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.

Rabbi Ariel Stofenmacher
Rector, Latin American Rabbinical Seminary

Rabbi Ellen Wolintz-Fields
Executive Director, Women's League for Conservative Judaism

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz
Chancellor, Jewish Theological Seminary

Rabbi Avi Novis-deutsch
Dean, Schechter Rabbinical Seminary

Rabbi Irina Gritsevsky
Director, Midreshet Schechter

Rabbi Ashira Konigsburg
Chief Operating Officer, the Rabbinical Assembly
Chief Program Officer, USCJ

Rabbi Prof. David Golinkin
President, The Schechter Institutes, Inc.