



Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance
520 8th Ave., 4th fl. New York, NY 10018
www.jofa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 9, 2010

CONTACT: Audrey Axelrod Trachtman
212-679-8500
jofa@jofa.org

JOFA Reaffirms Commitment to Female Religious Leaders

New York, NY – JOFA reaffirms our support of the individual women who have been the invisible center of the recent controversy over the conferral of religious leadership status on Orthodox women. We applaud these brave women who have stood fast with dignity. Daily they make us proud of their religious learning, halakhic commitment, and generous service to the community. We appreciate their patience with the long, slow march towards full halakhic participation in all aspects of communal life and Torah leadership.

We are encouraged by the RCA's recent statement asserting "its commitment to women's Torah education and scholarship at the highest levels, and to the assumption of appropriate leadership roles within the Jewish community." At the same time, we are saddened that so many leaders remain unsupportive of a title commensurate with the critical roles that women perform in the synagogue and greater Orthodox community.

JOFA believes that dialogue across the Orthodox community must be conducted with the respect embodied in the principle of "kol mahloket she'hi le'shem shamayim..." any argument for the sake of Heaven.... It is the wide variety of opinions, voices and practices within both halakha and our community that creates its richness and depth. We invite all to add their voices and "Join the Conversation" at the JOFA Conference this weekend, Saturday evening – Sunday March 13-14.

For more information about JOFA's advocacy efforts, please contact Audrey Axelrod Trachtman, VP of Advocacy, at jofa@jofa.org or 212-679-8500.

###

About JOFA (Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance)

Founded in 1997, JOFA's mission is to expand the spiritual, ritual, intellectual, and political opportunities for observant Jewish women within the framework of *halakha* (the collective body of Jewish law). JOFA's commitment is rooted in the belief that fulfilling its mission will enrich and uplift individual and communal life for all Jews. It enjoys the support of scholars and leaders throughout the Jewish world. Membership is open to women and men. For more information, visit www.jofa.org or call 212-679-8500.