



## **The Yoetzet Halacha Rabbinic Council In Support of Mizrachi Canada's Canadian Yoatzot Initiative.**

It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Canadian Yoatzot Initiative, run under the auspices of Mizrachi Canada, to our community.

The Yoatzot Halacha (Women Advisors in Jewish Law) Program, introduced in Israel in 1998 by Nishmat, has enabled tens of thousands of women to opt for a female address for their intimate questions relating to family life, marriage, intimacy, and women's health. While we, the Rabbinic community, are always striving to create as comfortable of an environment as possible for all types of questions, we recognize and understand that many women feel uncomfortable asking intimate questions to synagogue Rabbis and often leave important questions unasked, compromising their practice of Halacha and causing personal discomfort. While we continue to welcome such questions ourselves, we understand that a partnership with the Yoatzot Halacha is imperative to provide further support and opportunities for women in the community seeking halachic advice.

The Yoatzot Halacha are graduates of the Centre for Advanced Jewish Study for Women at Nishmat. These graduates, who are initially chosen for their scholarship, leadership ability, yirat shamayim, and strong religious commitment, train for two years, with over 1000 hours of intensive study with rabbinic authorities under the direction of Rabbi Yaacov Warhaftig and Rabbi Kenneth Auman. Yoatzot also receive training from experts in modern medicine and psychology, including gynecology, infertility, women's health, and family dynamics.

In strict compliance with Halacha and within the consensus of mainstream Orthodoxy, Yoatzot Halacha strengthen religious observance, find halachic solutions to problems that can mar couples' lives, and assist with fertility issues.

The goal of the Yoatzot Halacha Program is to act as an extension of the already existing Rabbinic halachic body in our community. We understand that Yoatzot are extremely knowledgeable, and they consult with Orthodox rabbinic authorities when approached with questions that demand a posek's attention.

The Yoatzot Halacha work under the auspices of the Yoetzet Halacha Rabbinic Council of Canada, which was established by community Rabbis to offer support, halachic guidance and direction to the Yoatzot Halacha in our community. The Council will be working with the Yoatzot on a regular basis to create guidelines and general policies for the initiative.

Rabbi Grauer

Rabbi Lipner

Rabbi Strauchler

Rabbi Greenberg

Rabbi Mazer

Rabbi Torczyner

Rabbi Grysman

Rabbi Rosenberg

Rabbi Weber

Rabbi Korobkin

Rabbi Rothman