



REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM INTENTION

FOR JUSTICE GINSBURG'S FIRST YAHRTZEIT

THIS YEAR marks one year since Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died; she was, of course, a staunch defender of reproductive health, rights and justice. As she put it in her dissent in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, abortion access is about giving a person the “autonomy to determine her life’s course, and thus to enjoy equal citizenship stature.” She made this point again and again, speaking even at her Senate confirmation hearing in 1993—when speaking frankly about something so controversial may have impacted her confirmation—about the importance of reproductive autonomy as a central part of a person’s dignity and well-being.

In Judaism, we mark the anniversary of a death—the yahrtzeit—with the lighting of a candle.

As SB 8, the most draconian abortion ban ever to pass in America goes into effect in Texas, and as the Supreme Court takes up a significant challenge to *Roe v. Wade*, this is an opportunity to dedicate this yahrtzeit candle to Justice Ginsburg’s legacy, and to committing to fight for reproductive freedom in her memory.

Light this candle on the evening of Sunday, September 5th—or, to take the spirit of her work with you as you begin Rosh Hashana on Monday, September 6th:

As you light, say,

I light this candle in memory of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg. May her memory be a blessing and a revolution. May her legacy illuminate the path forward, and help me find my own way in the fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice. Just as she hung the words from the Torah, “Justice, justice, you shall pursue” (Deuteronomy 16:20) on her office wall to remind her of her own mission, so too may these words remind me of my own obligations in the work for a world in need of healing, and in the work for reproductive freedom for all.

NCJ ™

National Council of Jewish Women

ncjw.org
✉ connect@ncjw.org

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