

# DEDICATE THE THIRD NIGHT OF HANUKKAH TO REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM & #ACTIONSNOTMIRACLES

**This year**, as we kindle the flames of our Hanukkah candles, we are painfully aware of all that is at stake with our reproductive freedom. National Council of Jewish Women has created the following supplemental ritual to reflect the gravity of this moment in time for our country. We recommend adding this to your candle lighting on the third night of Hanukkah, the evening before we rally together in front of the Supreme Court, who will be hearing oral arguments on *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* -- a case whose outcome could have permanent ramifications.



*To be read after lighting the candles on the third night of Hanukkah, November 30, 2021 | 26 Kislev 5782:*

בָּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי', אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, אֲשֶׁר קִדְּשָׁנוּ בְּמִצְוֹתָיו, וְצִוְּנוּ לְהַדְלִיק נֵר שֶׁל חֲנֻכָּה

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, asher kid'shanu b'mitzvotav v'tsivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukkah.*

Blessed are You, Our God, Sovereign of the universe, Who made us holy through Your commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah lights.

בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, אֱלֹהֵינוּ מֶלֶךְ הָעוֹלָם, שְׁעָשָׂה נִסִּים לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ, בְּיָמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמַּן הַזֶּה

*Baruch atah, Adonai Eloheinu, Melech haolam, she-asah nisim la'avoteinu bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.*

Blessed are You, Our God, Sovereign of the universe, Who performed wondrous deeds for our ancestors in those ancient days at this season.

In this season of rededication, let us light the menorah on the third night of Hanukkah to honor our commitment to reproductive freedom.

Tomorrow morning, the United States Supreme Court will hear a challenge to the state of Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. This case marks the first time the Court will rule on the constitutionality of a pre-viability abortion ban since *Roe v. Wade*. The decision will determine the future of *Roe*.

Each year we light our Hanukkah candles to bring light into a world of darkness; our little flickering lights are our stubborn reminder to ourselves to remain vigilant in our pursuit of light in a seemingly dark world.

Cynthia Ozick once wrote, "Hanukkah is the Hebrew word for dedication. Dedication to what? To mercy, conscience, freedom...Hanukkah marks the earliest battle for religious freedom in the history of our planet. But more than that: Hanukkah marks the beginning of the very concept of religious freedom."

We know that reproductive freedom is religious freedom: ensuring that every person can make reproductive decisions according to their own values and beliefs. That is why this Hanukkah we rededicate ourself to the pursuit of freedom for all people, including abortion access for all.

***"We do not rely on miracles" Babylonian Talmud Pesachim 64b  
It's on us to fight for abortion rights and access.***

## GET SOCIAL!

Snap a picture of your menorah and share on social media with the message: "We do not rely on miracles" (Babylonian Talmud Pesachim 64b). It's on us to fight for abortion justice! #ActionsNotMiracles #73Forward @NCJWinc