



HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION
היברו יוניון קולג' - מכון למדעי היהדות
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NEWS

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Westboro Baptist Church to “Help” Raise Funds for Target of their Protest

Responding to the Westboro Baptist Church’s (WBC) protest at the Los Angeles campus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion's (HUC-JIR) on August 13, 2010, staff, faculty, students and alumni have pledged contributions to the very program that WBC chose to picket: the Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation (IJSO). The money raised will support the training of future Jewish leaders on creating inclusive communities. *Donations may be made by calling 213-765-2106 or at lagiving@huc.edu.*



HUC-JIR is the nation’s oldest institution of higher Jewish education and the academic, spiritual, and professional development center of Reform Judaism. HUC-JIR’s policies advocate on the behalf of inclusivity for all people regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity – one of the core values of the Reform Movement. HUC-JIR educates students for service to American and world Jewry as rabbis, cantors, educators, and communal service professionals, and offers graduate and post-graduate degree programs for scholars of all faiths.

The mission of the IJSO is driven by Jewish religious values and the spiritual quest for holiness. The IJSO seeks to achieve complete inclusion, integration and welcoming of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Jews, their families, friends and allies in congregations and communities. It trains and empowers Jewish professionals, educates students, and supports scholars and researchers in their quest to develop a theology and practice of inclusion. The IJSO works to repair one aspect of the hatred that threatens the world and is espoused by Fred Phelps, Founder of the WBC, and his followers.

מעז יצא מתוק:

*Out of the spite
came sweetness
(Judges 13:14)*

This grass-roots response was initiated by a staff member who sought to counter the WBC’s hate-based targeting of Jews and any group supporting LGBT people’s struggle for equality. Phelps has also been known to demonstrate with his followers—including children—at military funerals, attributing the death of the soldiers to the “sin of homosexuality.”

Available for interview: Dr. Joshua Holo, Dean, HUC-JIR/LA campus

About the IJSO

The Institute for Judaism and Sexual Orientation (IJSO) at HUC-JIR is a unique entity within the Jewish community with its explicit mission of preparing Jewish leadership with the capacity, compassion and skills to change congregational attitudes, policies, and, indeed, Jewish society so as to include each and every Jew, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. By encouraging dialogue on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues among the organizational arms of the Reform Movement, as well as with local and national organizations, the Institute will create a unique space where Jewish tradition, ethics and values combine in the spirit of social justice, holiness and community to foster the complete integration and welcoming of LGBT people in congregations and communities. www.huc.edu/ijso