

Status of Women

“AS a women's organisation, we are concerned about the disadvantages , inferior status and negative stereotyping which many women experience simply because of their sex...” (Geulah Solomom)

- NCJWA's affiliation to the International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) has influenced its work at a local level. NCJWA National is also affiliated to the National Council of Women Australia.



'Objectification of Women' illustrated talk

- NCJWA is part of three Australian **Federal Government - funded alliances of national women's organisations**. In 2004 NCJWA became part of the Australian Women's Coalition. In 2010 NCJWA joined AWAVA (Australian Women Against Violence Alliance) and ERA (Equality Rights Alliance).



Jewish Women's Book Club

Affiliations

- NCJWA NSW sends a delegate to NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.
- The NCJWA NSW President sits on the Jewish Communal Appeal Board (JCA) of Governors. Council has worked as a constituent organization since JCA's inception in 1967.
- The NCJWA National President sits on the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.
- 1983 – Ray Ginsburg AM - NCJWA National President – NCJWA was the only Jewish organization represented at the Canberra Status of Women meeting with Prime Minister Bob Hawke.
- 1990s – Lynne Davies AM - NCJWA National President – NCJWA again was the only Jewish women's organization at the Prime Minister's Round Table meeting in Canberra.
- **The Gett** (Jewish divorce document) – Throughout its 100 year history, International Council of Jewish Women has continually lobbied to find within halacha the means to assist agunot (chained women) to obtain the Gett. In 1998, ICJW's International Jewish Women's Rights Project was launched and is committed to restoring justice and fairness to the Jewish divorce process for women.

- In 1970 Ray Ginsburg AM and Rebbetzin Marion Apple formed the NCJWA Status of Women in Judaism and Jewish Law Committee to educate Australian lawyers about the need to push for a Gett along with a secular divorce. From 1988 – 1997 NCJWA worked to facilitate the Gett for Jewish women around the world, instigating a petition with thousands of signatories, which were personally presented to rabbinical bodies around the world.
- **NCJWA NSW Jewish Women's Book Club**, opened in 2013 at the Rebbetzin Gottshall Library, provides a primary source of information on the status of Jewish women. Specialist speakers involve members who research data on a myriad of issues pertaining to Jewish women.
- **Human Rights Day** is observed annually on **NCJWA Founder's Day** in early December. Along with tributes to Dr Fanny Reading in her birthday month, human rights issues are presented and discussed.
- **International Women's Day** is observed annually by attendance at community events. Special Council events marking this day included, in 2013, an illustrated talk highlighting the issue "The objectification of women in the media and popular culture".
- NCJWA NSW has initiated an annual Birthing Kit Assembly Day through the Birthing Kit Foundation Australia. The kits provide women in developing countries with the materials for a clean and safe childbirth.

ICJW

International Council of Jewish Women (ICJW) - represents one million women worldwide and speaks on behalf of women's issues at the UN in Paris, Geneva, Vienna and New York.

ICJW continues to be proactive in its work on women's rights at the

UN Commission on the Status of Women, which meets annually in New York. It aims to end violence against women, trafficking, genital mutilation and gender discrimination. Promotion of female education is an important issue worldwide.

The broad spectrum of ICJW work enables women from five global regions, dozens of countries and a wide spectrum of Jewish observance, to progress womankind.

CJW - original name of organisation

NCJW - refers to National Body, now known as NCJWA

NCJW NSW & NCJWA NSW - refer to NSW Division



Birthing Kit packing morning at Council House