

Dear Partners and Friends,

During this time of crisis, we hope that you are all safe and healthy.

It is important for us to take a moment to share with you that the **Rackman Center** is limiting its operations and dealing with emergency situations and urgent matters only, in its legal aid clinic and its advocacy and policy sections. This action is a direct result of the current global crisis and the Israeli government's decision to freeze the economy, systems and services, including the judicial system (excluding emergency situations) and the academia. This impacts our work as a center that operates out of Bar Ilan University and in our efforts to protect and represent women in the divorce process before the courts.

The Rackman Center is continuing to deal with critical cases already filed with the courts, emergency calls to our support helpline and other urgent matters, including current attempts to form a government and preparing for the impact of the Corona crisis on women in Israel.

We must remember that, while this crisis is difficult for all of us, as history has shown, **women are more likely to suffer in times of crisis.**

- Women and their children are the primary victims of financial cutbacks and reductions in welfare resources.
- Women are still the primary caregiver and must now step-up to care for their children's and family's needs: educational, medical, psychological, physical, diet, etc.
- Women are exposed to more domestic violence in times of crisis and family isolation in the home.

As a result, **we expect a surge in the needs of women in Israel** once life returns to 'normal'.

As part of our current efforts to remain active, the **Rackman Center**, together with partnering organizations in the field, is calling on decision makers to act immediately! **We are actively promoting policies that:**

- Protect the weaker individuals in Israeli society, including women!
- Encourage the currently frozen legal system to provide immediate responses to cases of domestic violence and violations of women's rights!
- Plan for the day after the Corona crisis by strengthening the State and third sector responses and creating new solutions, where required.

In conclusion, we thank everyone in Israel and around the globe who is working endlessly through this difficult time to keep us safe and to all of our partners who make our work possible. In times like this, we see beauty and hope in the solidarity of human kind and anticipation for the new opportunities for change that moments like this bring.

May you all stay safe and healthy,

Prof. Ruth Halperin-Kaddari

Founder and Chairperson

Adv. Keren Horowitz

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