

November 19, 2009

Rabbinic Leaders Call for Reinstatement of “the Hyatt 100”

Throughout its history of nearly 130 years, the Central Conference of American Rabbis has made workers’ rights a priority. Now the world’s largest organization of Jewish clergy, the CCAR has from its infancy stood firmly on the side of labor. Among the Reform Rabbinate’s proudest moments have been those occasions when we have collectively and individually spoken out for child labor laws, against dangerous workplace conditions, and for fair and decent pay.

How sad that we must do so again in the 21st Century. We, the leadership of the CCAR, join the voices of our Massachusetts colleagues and the Governor of the Commonwealth to decry the despicable actions of the Hyatt Corporation, which suddenly and unexpectedly terminated the employment of some 100 Boston-area hotel housekeepers, their jobs “outsourced.” We are outraged that loyal, long-term Hyatt employees were tricked into training their replacements, who receive half the pay and none of the benefits of the workers they replaced. Like the Rabbis who went before us in the age of sweatshops, we will not remain silent while Hyatt’s most vulnerable employees are cast aside.

We join the Governor of Massachusetts and our own members there in their call for a boycott of Hyatt hotels. No simcha can be joyous if it is celebrated at a Hyatt, until the Hyatt 100 are restored to their modest posts, key to Hyatt’s mission.

Ellen Weinberg Dreyfus
President

Steven A. Fox
Executive Vice-President

Central Conference of American Rabbis