



THIS WEEK! Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Forum

When: Thursday, March 21 | 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Where: University of Missouri - St. Louis, Ed Collabiat in the Ward E. Barnes Building

[RSVP Here](#)

☐ Raise awareness, take action! ☐ Join NCJWSTL and our fellow event cosponsors for the 2024 Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Forum!

Hosted by NCJWSTL and Senator Brian Williams, this event is open to all! Senator Williams, a champion in the fight against human trafficking, will be sharing vital insights.



Don't miss out! RSVP now to Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

THIS WEEK! March Lunch and Learn - Picture This St. Louis Women Photographers with Elizabeth Eikmann



**Thursday, March 21, 2024
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM CT**

Dr. Elizabeth Eikmann

When: Thursday, March 21 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Did you know that not only was nineteenth-century St. Louis a bustling photography destination, but it was also home to hundreds of female photographers!? For Women's History Month, we are excited to welcome Dr. Elizabeth Eikmann, whose presentation

explores the early history of women's photography and highlights the lives and professional careers of several St. Louis women whose impressive work started right here in Missouri.

Dr. Eikmann is an expert in St. Louis history, women's history and the history of photography. She is a teacher, scholar, and public historian with experience working with museums, public libraries, universities, and the local tourism industry. She currently serves as a Program Coordinator at Washington University in St. Louis and is working on her book project, *In Her Image: Women's Photography in Turn-of-the-Century St. Louis*, which explores the role of white practitioners of photography in the linking of racial identification and vision. She has extensive experience as a local tour guide, university instructor, and public educational speaker.

Please [click here](#) to register for the March Lunch & Learn. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call 314.993.5181.

Repro Rights Petition Training and Signing Information



Would you like to help gather signatures at events? Our friends at AccessMO have created an extensive [sign-up](#) with some public events in the STL region through the end of April. We have collected a TON of signatures by arriving an hour before event start times, it's an easy opportunity to gather a lot of signatures in a short period of time.

[Click Here to Gather Signatures at Events](#)

Would you like to host a signature gathering house party? We will send trained signature gathering volunteers to your home to speak and gather signatures. You provide the refreshments, we will provide the speaker and petitions!

[Click Here to Host a House Party](#)

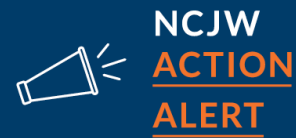
- **We also have petitions available to sign at the NCJWSTL office!** Stop by anytime between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 AM - 7:00 PM on Wednesdays and 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM on Fridays to sign.
- If you are collecting signatures and need your sheets notarized, a notary is available at the NCJWSTL office on Mondays and Thursdays between 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM and Wednesdays between 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM.

[We are required to collect 172,000 valid signatures by May 5th, 2024](#), to ensure Missourians get to vote on ending our cruel abortion ban at the ballot. **Help us do our part!**

For more information, contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org.

Legislation Watch - Take Action Today!

NCJWSTL is closely monitoring the following legislation this week and we are asking you to take action:



Bills we are advocating FOR this week:

HB 1999 - This bill allows school districts to include instruction on LGBTQ contributions to society. Although it has been introduced, it has not yet been assigned to a committee, but you can contact your legislators by [clicking here](#) to urge them to support HB 1999 when it's assigned to a committee.

HB 2478 - This bill prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Otherwise known as the Missouri Non-Discrimination Act (MONA), NCJWSTL and our coalition partners have been trying to pass this legislation for over 20 years. MONA has not been assigned to a committee yet, but you can contact your legislators by [clicking here](#) to urge them to support HB 2478 if and when it is.

Below are the bills we are advocating AGAINST this week:

SJR 74 - NCJWSTL was in Jefferson City last week to testify against this bill, which would require proposed constitutional amendments to receive not just a majority of votes cast statewide (the rule now) but also prevail in a majority of Congressional districts. This measure implies that some votes don't count as much as others. Adding this barrier does nothing more than censure the voice of the people. Please contact your Missouri representative by [clicking here](#) and urge them to vote no on SJR 74, as well as on any measures to change the initiative petition process.

HB 2498 - This bill requires public libraries that are authorized to levy or collect taxes to be governed by an elected library board. It would be disastrous for public libraries because it would give the board power to select books, make personnel decisions, etc. This bill has been voted out of committee. Please contact your Missouri representative by [clicking here](#) and urge them to vote NO on HB 2498 if and when it comes to the House floor.

*When you click on this link, it will take you to a list of all House committees. Please scroll down to find the specific committee you are looking for.

To follow all of the bills that NCJWSTL is monitoring during the 2024 Missouri Legislative session, please [click here](#).

Sign the Jewish Communal Pledge for IVF Access

The Alabama Supreme Court recently issued a ruling that declared frozen embryos to be children and that the discarding of frozen embryos constitutes the wrongful death of a minor. This decision was clearly in favor of Christian theology, not even trying to hide their reasoning. Indeed, the Chief Justice referenced God 41 times and repeatedly quoted the Bible in his opinion.

Add your voice:

Jewish Communal Pledge for IVF Access and Religious Freedom

(in light of the Alabama Supreme Court decision)

National Council of Jewish Women

The Jewish community cannot be silent! Jewish law is clear: an embryo is not regarded as a person. And the most common Jewish interpretation is that life begins at birth. A court decision that favors one religion over another goes against the principles of our Constitution and disproportionately impacts people from various minority religious backgrounds, including Jewish communities, as well as others who need access to critical reproductive technologies, like LGBTQ couples and those who depend on IVF to start and build their families.

[Click here](#) and add your voice to help us move closer to a world where every person is able to access comprehensive, affordable, compassionate, and equitable reproductive health care — including IVF.

Moms Demand Action Lobby Day

When: Wednesday, March 27 | 9:30 AM

Where: Missouri State Capitol Building

[RSVP Here](#)

When faced with facts like the U.S. is now averaging more than [one mass shooting a day](#), we wonder where to find the hope, and if and how to continue the fight. Joining with fellow activists to show legislators that every day they delay critical action, more Missourians are at risk of gun violence like the horrific events at the Super Bowl parade last month.

WE CAN END
GUN VIOLENCE

Mom's Demand Action is excited to invite you to attend their annual lobby day in Jefferson City. There will be carpools leaving from different parts of St. Louis. After you register, you will receive more information.

For more information and to RSVP, please [click here](#).

ADD YOUR NAME and Help Us Oppose Censorship of Our Public Libraries

For those who have already joined, thank you!

To protect libraries throughout Missouri, including those at public schools, NCJWSTL has helped convene a statewide coalition of individuals and organizations called Right to Read. The coalition will oppose any legislative, state policy or other effort to restrict access to materials at public libraries; the coalition has the utmost confidence in trained, experienced librarians and educators to evaluate and select materials in the libraries' collection.



Did you know?

- As a result of a Missouri law enacted in August 2022 restricting some types of materials in public schools, **librarians fearful of criminal prosecution have removed nearly 300 titles** from school library shelves.
- Under an administrative rule imposed by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft, all public libraries must have submitted by July 31 how they will comply with the vaguely written rule. **Failure to comply could result in loss of state funding**, which comprises a significant portion of small libraries' budgets.
- Missouri is among the nation's top book banning states, **especially regarding restricting access to books about gender, sexuality and race in public schools.**

More attempts will likely be made in the 2024 Missouri legislative session to suppress First Amendment rights. Free and open access to materials at our public libraries is an essential aspect of our democracy.

Please [click here](#) to add your name as an individual member of the coalition. For more information, please e-mail the coalition at righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com.

Get FREE Emergency Contraception at NCJWSTL!



NCJWSTL is thrilled to announce that we have partnered with the [Missouri Family Health Council](#) (MFHC) to distribute **FREE emergency contraception kits!** This effort is vitally important in the wake of last year's Supreme Court decision overturning Roe vs. Wade, especially in states like Missouri where abortion is illegal. Everyone should have the right to determine when and if they wish to start a family, and emergency contraception is vital in preventing unwanted pregnancies.

Also known as the morning-after pill, or by the brand name Plan B, the emergency contraception pill is an over-the-counter form of birth control that can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex to avoid pregnancy. The goal of this effort is to reduce geographic and financial barriers Missourians face in accessing emergency contraception pills.

While supplies last, MFHC, NCJWSTL and other partner organizations are offering free EC kits to anyone of any age. **Feel free to stop by the NCJWSTL office to pick up your kit - for you or a loved one.**

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org. You can also order an emergency contraception kit by mail by [clicking here](#).

Take Action & Join the A-List

Now more than ever you will want to make sure that your name is on NCJWSTL's A-List for 2023! Join us as we stand together and speak out about the issues that matter most.

Together we can make a difference!

A-List sponsorship ads sustain our collaborative efforts to educate the community and elected officials about issues integral to our mission, such as birth control access and voting rights. The full-page ads will run in the St. Louis Jewish Light during 2023.



- **\$18 includes your name in the ad.**
- **\$54 makes you an Advocate Plus with your name in bold.**
- **\$72 makes you a sponsor with your name distinguished in color.**

[Click here](#) to see the A-List flyer.

[Click here](#) to see the latest A-List Ad.

Join the A-list [here](#).

Interesting Reading



The majority of Americans support nondiscrimination laws for LGBTQ+ people — even those who are religious or live in red states.

While support for LGBTQ+ rights differs by state, it remains strong among most Americans. More than 75 percent support nondiscrimination laws, including 71 percent of red state residents, 75 percent in

battleground states, and 79 percent in blue states, according to a new survey of more than 22,000 American adults by the Public Religion Research Institute.

[Click here](#) to read Ryan Adamczeski's article from *The Advocate*, "Even in Red States, the Vast Majority of Americans Support LGBTQ+ Protection Laws."

Not yet a member of NCJWSTL? [Click here](#) to become part of a growing network of courageous and compassionate individuals who improve the lives of women, children, and families every day. You don't have to be a woman or Jewish to join!

Donate to Support NCJWSTL &
Transform Our Community

NCJWSTL

National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis



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