

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Arev Fund Announces Latest Round of Grants

New York, United States – January 8, 2023- With great enthusiasm, The Arev Fund announces its grantees for the 2023 cycle. This year, the women of the Arev Fund decided to partner with organizations and projects working on amplifying the voices of women Torah scholars and on supporting Jewish women under threat of violence and exploitation.

The Arev Fund is a giving circle of observant Jewish women with the mission of promoting impactful female Jewish philanthropy to spur change in the areas of spiritual leadership, communal life, social justice, and education in the United States and Israel, with a particular focus on the advancement of women. With this round of grants, Arev continues to move its unique mission forward.

Having funded projects in past cycles that educate women towards spiritual leadership, we noted a need to create spaces and opportunities that amplify those voices and remove barriers to full participation and leadership. With that in mind, we decided to fund two different projects that uniquely address different aspects of these challenges by elevating women's voices through writing.

The Author Initiative is a project of **Sefaria**, the free online living library of Jewish texts. The Author Initiative is working to place more works by esteemed women authors on the Jewish bookshelf, with the goal of influencing Jewish learning for generations to come. The Author Initiative works to make women's Torah scholarship more proportionately represented, by providing scholars a roadmap to publication along with mentorship and a supportive peer group. Through an annual retreat, monthly writing workshops, a personal writing coach, exposure to literary agents and more, the authors in the cohort will move towards published authorship, with the goal of publishing fifteen new books by women at the end of three years.

Arev also made a grant to the **Matan Kitvuni Fellowship**. The Kitvuni Fellowship, echoing Esther's call of *kitvuni l'dorot* - for her writings to resonate for the generations - promotes the publication of high-level Torah scholarship by women. The initiative provides female Torah scholars with the support necessary to facilitate their ability to complete a book in a field of Torah scholarship.

Together with our previous year's grant to the Yeshivat Maharat's Va'tichtov: She Writes, which aims to elevate Jewish women's scholarship by building a cohort of scholars, and providing the skills, support, and resources necessary to produce new content, the Arev Fund is pleased to be amplifying and bringing to publication a new generation of scholarly women's voices.

The Arev Fund has a strong interest in supporting collaborative projects in our funding areas. This year, we are proud to support **ORA's new Cheirut Network**, which brings together agunah activists from around the globe who focus on individual casework and thus create an international coalition of Agunah advocacy organizations. ORA's mission is to eliminate abuse from the Jewish divorce process. ORA Cheirut assembled a robust network of advocates from a range of locations and organizational sizes, featuring both large agencies and small start-ups. ORA Cheirut believes the protracted refusal to issue or receive a get is a form of domestic abuse which must never be tolerated. This coalition creates a unified advocacy community that can share resources, work together on international cases, and partner on important initiatives.

Arev is also interested in projects that bring youth voices in the complex problems that face our communities and is funding **Shalom Task Force's Purple Fellowship**. The Purple Fellowship aims to take a preventative and educational approach to issues of domestic violence in the Jewish community. The Purple Fellowship works with teen fellows at local day schools to educate them about abuse prevention work and culminates with the fellows planning a schoolwide "Purple Day" event that aims to educate the school community about issues of domestic abuse.

The Arev Fund is proud to support **Project Keshet's Emergency Support for Project Keshet Ukraine**. Over the past thirty years, Project Keshet has built a large grassroots network of Jewish women leaders in Belarus, Israel, Russia and Ukraine that advocates for Jewish community and women's empowerment, health, and safety. Project Keshet's mission is to build Jewish community and advance civil society by developing women leaders. Following Russia's launch of the war on Ukraine, Project Keshet Ukraine activated its grassroots network of over 300 trained leaders from more than forty cities. The Arev Fund grant provides operational support to this network as they work to provide safe accommodations and food, mental health and wellbeing support, crisis consultation and legal support, and safe and reliable evacuation transportation, all while protecting displaced women and children who are vulnerable to trafficking and sexual violence.

Through our selection of this group of grantees this year, we hope to both elevate and celebrate those voices that are strengthening women's Torah leadership and combat those forces that seek to disempower and disenfranchise the voices and experiences of women and girls. We are invigorated by the depth and breadth of innovative entrepreneurial activity taking place in our community and remain committed to supporting and highlighting that work.

For further information about the Arev Fund and its grantees, please visit Arev's website at www.arevfund.org.

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www.arevfund.org

info@arevfund.org
