



Inspired by the lawsuits filed in Florida challenging the state's abortion ban on the basis of religious freedom, *Under G-d* is a documentary short film about the national Jewish response to the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* US Supreme Court decision woven through the lived experiences of impacted Jewish women and the various lawsuits currently being launched by rabbis, Jewish organizations and interfaith leaders to challenge the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, state by state. Through the lens of maintaining the separation between church and state, these nationwide efforts are predicated on ultimately protecting religious freedom – and democracy – for all.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

PERSONAL

1. What did you learn from this documentary? What shocked or surprised you?
2. Were you moved when watching the film? If so, in what ways?
3. What personal experiences, or stories and perspectives shared by others, have influenced your views on abortion and reproductive choice and justice in the US?
4. Did the story of the couple from Indiana shown in the beginning of the film affect or change those views in any way?
5. Do you know of any women or birthing people in your life or community who have had to make difficult decisions because of strict bans on abortion, or whose health has been affected by them?

FAITH

6. How can faith leaders be more active in promoting a woman or birthing person's right to reproductive choice and for making decisions about their own body themselves?
7. If you are a person of faith, does your faith mention or discuss abortion or reproductive health? If so, what messages have you received about it?
8. Are you aware that abortion legislation and rightwing Christian fundamentalism are connected?
9. Did you know that Judaism & Islam allow for abortion and (often) prioritize the woman/birthing person's health and choice over the fetus?
10. Are there any churches or faith groups in your own community that have been vocal against abortion bans, and are instead advocating for the right to reproductive choice?
11. Many people think that religion itself is anti-abortion, however, Jewish women have led the charge for abortion and reproductive rights in the US for over a century. How can we use religion to help people, instead of taking away their rights and freedoms?

LEGAL

12. Did you know about the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) before watching the film? And the fact that there is a very clear overlap between states that are banning abortion and those that have enacted RFRA. What are your thoughts on how it can/is being used to protect abortion rights?
13. In your own town, state, schools, etc., do you recall other circumstances, outside of abortion bans and legislation, where the separation of church and state has been overstepped in order to prioritize certain religious beliefs?
14. Most abortions are now banned in many US states as laws restricting the procedure take effect following the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. Georgia bans abortion at about six weeks of pregnancy, *before many women know they are pregnant*. In many states, the fight over abortion access is taking place in courtrooms, where advocates have sued to block enforcement of laws that restrict the procedure. Other states have moved to expand access to abortion by adding legal protections (source). Do you agree that a woman/birthing person's right to make decisions about their body and whether or not they can terminate their pregnancy should depend on their zip code?

TAKE ACTION

LEARN/SHARE:

- Learn more about the film and the team behind this important documentary [here](#).
- Want to expand your knowledge about religions and their views on abortion?
 - [Jewish Perspectives on Abortion](#) - read and share this article.
 - [Judaism & Abortion](#) - advocacy resource
 - [The Islamic Position on Abortion](#)
 - [Abortion in Good Faith](#) - Catholics for Choice
- [Abortion Finder](#) is a team of advocates, public health experts, researchers, designers, and engineers who came together to provide people having easy access to the reproductive health care they need and want, and that includes abortion. [Select your state](#) to get information about what to expect and to locate abortion support resources and assistance.
- [Read this report](#) on the history and law of religious right to abortion litigation from Columbia Law School.

SUPPORT/ACT:

- 1) [Americans United \(AU\)](#) has been at the forefront of religious freedom and reproductive freedom fights for more than 75 years. AU first challenged religiously motivated restrictions on contraception back in the 1950s. We know that when we shield our shared laws from any religion's influence, we are freed to come together as equals and build a stronger democracy.

Abortion bans impose one narrow religious doctrine on all of us. When religious extremists and their lawmaker allies ban abortion, they are forcing all of us to live by their narrow beliefs. That means abortion bans violate the separation of church and state. Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the National Women's Law Center, leading experts in religious freedom and gender justice, are challenging Missouri's draconian abortion bans on behalf of thirteen clergy from six different denominations. State officials repeatedly told us that they were imposing their religious law on everyone.

[Listen to Missouri's legislators](#). They wrote into the bill itself that "Almighty God is the author of life" and that "the life of an individual human being begins at conception."

[Check out all the celebrities](#) supporting church-state separation, emphasizing the connection between that separation and abortion rights.

[Join the fight](#) by supporting Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

- 2) [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\)](#): The ACLU works in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the U.S. guarantee everyone in this country.

The House will soon vote on two important bills: the Women's Health Protection Act (WHPA), to protect the right to access abortion nationwide by providing federal safeguards against abortion

bans and restrictions – and the Ensuring Women’s Right to Reproductive Freedom Act, to reaffirm the right of people to travel out-of-state to seek abortion care and to help those who do. In this crisis moment, let’s make sure our representatives act: [Send a message](#) urging them to pass these two critical pieces of legislation immediately.

[Take the pledge](#): Commit to being a defender of abortion rights!

The [Abortion Criminal Defense Initiative](#) is one way the ACLU is confronting the criminalization of abortion care in the aftermath of the U.S. Supreme Court’s reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Through this initiative, the ACLU is establishing and working alongside a network of experienced criminal defense attorneys prepared to defend those facing prosecution related to abortion care. Support their work [by signing up here](#).

Support the ACLU’s integral work [by contributing here](#).

- 3) **[National Council of Jewish Women \(NCJW\)](#)**: a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

Abortion access is a Jewish value, plain and simple. For too long, the American narrative about religion and abortion has ignored Jewish voices – and it’s past time for that to end. [Join NCJW’s Jewish movement](#) to make it clear that Jews support reproductive freedom.

[Here is a list](#) of some helpful educational, programming, and storytelling resources to share abortion justice with your community.