

TITLE OF PROJECT: **Creating Realistic Rights of Exit for Women who go “Off the Derech”**
(Undergraduate / Graduate Student Project)

PROJECT INFORMATION

Political theorists who seek to balance the claims of cultural minorities to preserve discriminatory practices and women within these communities who seek to change them are often drawn to policy models which allow women to exit from the community's grip into secular society as a solution to this problem. This has the advantage of giving women the opportunity to exercise agency but may have the unfortunate by-product of preserving the impugned practices by removing critics from the community. HBI Director, Lisa Fishbayn Joffe, is beginning a new project examining “exit” options for women who aim to leave these communities.

This research project will explore the role of the provision of “exit” options in theories and policies of multicultural accommodation. After reconsidering the relationship proposed between exit, voice and loyalty in the work of A. O. Hirshmann, it will consider how exit options for women seeking to transform discriminatory norms might be better designed to enable transformation within the community rather than exit from it. This approach will be developed through analysis of child custody disputes involving parents who have left ultra-Orthodox Jewish sects in the United States and the United Kingdom.

PROFILE OF APPROPRIATE CANDIDATE

- Course work in Law, Legal Studies, Political Theory or Moral Philosophy, or related fields
- Excellent research skills
- Excellent writing skills
- Creativity
- Demonstrated initiative.
- Strong organizational skills.