

## A Question for Each and Every Liberal Jew Rabbi Aaron Goldstein

*"We affirm the importance of individual autonomy and therefore legislate only in so far as it is necessary to do so. Nevertheless, individuals need guidance, and communal life requires rules. Both in the guidance we offer and in the rules we make, we endeavour to reconcile tradition with modernity."*

So we say in our 'Affirmations of Liberal Judaism, no. 40!' Liberal Judaism is a most democratic of Jewish denominations. Our most recent liturgies were published in the names of our Rabbis but it was the lay Consultancy Panel and responses from congregants experiencing various drafts that insured its relevancy. The partnership between the lay Board of National Officers and the Rabbinic Conference is what informs, validates and vitalises our direction. Then again, when 'necessary' our Rabbis have 'led,' as they did so nationally regarding Equal Marriage and within our Movement on mixed relationships.

I do believe that Liberal Judaism is at its most potent, best able to provide a prophetic lead towards fulfilling our part of the covenant with God, when we are driven from the grassroots. I am sure that we are all engaged on some issue or other but is it beyond us to combine our individual voices to provide a combined platform for our work? Liberal Judaism is engaged in many issues, currently towards a Living Wage and highlighting poverty; but is most powerful when it is grassroots congregants that are driving us: Individual autonomy being the guide that rules our practice. When we are all exercised and act, we can affect change.

So my question addressed to all Liberal Jews is, 'Which issue would give you the deepest pride that your Movement is fighting for?'