

JOINT INTERMARRIAGE WORKING GROUP (IWG) REPORT SUMMARY – DECEMBER 2025

Intermarriage has been a topic for the Jewish people since our inception, and that continues today, as many Jewish homes include one partner who is formally Jewish and one who is not. In recent years, the Conservative/Masorti Movement has sought ways to welcome and engage these families, leaving behind its legacy of disapproval.

In 2024, the Rabbinical Assembly (RA), United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ), and Cantors Assembly (CA) convened the Intermarriage Working Group to review this issue. The group brought together a diverse membership with global perspectives. Guided by a year of listening, research, pastoral reflection, and community input, the group has issued a report that provides a practical roadmap with specific steps to strengthen Jewish life, families, and communities. The report highlights four Emerging Themes and four Next Steps for deeper engagement with intermarrying couples.

You can find the full report on [USCJ.org](https://uscj.org) or RabbinicalAssembly.org.

FOUR EMERGING THEMES AND VALUES

The Need to Move from Disapproval to Engagement

The Conservative/Masorti movement is continuing to move from disapproval to engagement with families where one partner is Jewish, and the other is not, empowering them to lead more meaningful Jewish lives and build Jewish homes.

The Need to Emphasize the Value Proposition of Jewish Living

We will emphasize education, pastoral guidance, and clear pathways to engage in Jewish life, helping all community members articulate the kind of home they want to build with intentionality and shared values.

The Value of Our Movement's Expansive, Creative, and Relevant *Halakhah*

Halakhah can provide opportunities for inclusion, not just boundaries, for those committed to Jewish life.

Authority of Clergy Is Derived from Relationship

Our clergy build communities through relationships of mutual trust, love, and pastoral care. Those relationships should be infused with Jewish teaching, wisdom, and shared responsibility — not coercion or disapproval.

FOUR NEXT STEPS

Acknowledging and Healing Hurt (*Teshuva*)

Many individuals and families have felt shamed or excluded by the Movement's past policies. We acknowledge that our historical stance caused hurt and alienation. We deeply apologize and commit to repairing these relationships whenever possible.

Welcoming and affirming couples around their marriage

We will explore roles clergy can play before, on, and after the wedding day, including ritual options to bless couples committed to building Jewish homes. The traditional Jewish wedding ceremony remains a particularistic ritual expression of Jewish identity for two Jewish partners. While the report does not alter the longstanding standard on officiation, it affirms that *halakhah* provides opportunities for inclusion—not just boundaries—for couples committed to Jewish life.

Making Conversion Accessible

We recognize multiple pathways to Jewish identity and affirm that conversion should be accessible, personal, and grounded in dignity. Those considering conversion feel welcomed and connected to Jewish life in our communities.

Reframing the Conversation on Inter marriage: A Curriculum

We will develop curricula for community members, clergy, and educators that welcome people as they are, affirm that while endogamy (marriage of two Jewish partners) is a desirable goal, it is not the only path to committed Jewish life, and educate around shared values and expectations.