



Rabbi Yehuda Herzl Henkin

A gallery of honorable commendations by Torah scholars from all sectors and groups adorn the responsa and rulings of Rabbi Henkin, which give a fitting halachic response derived from the world of the Torah on the burning issues of today.

Beyond that, Rabbi Henkin has for close to 40 years made a significant breakthrough and revolution in his books and initiatives that empower the woman's role in the Torah world and religious life. His responsa and rulings in this field are held in great regard by the public in general and the women's sector in particular.

The public views Rabbi Henkin as a profound Torah scholar, honest and humble, and in particular, a devoted disciple of his illustrious grandfather, Rabbi Yosef Eliyahu Henkin of the U.S., from whom he learned most of his Torah knowledge, and from whom he gleaned his serious, respectful and embracing attitude for women's spiritual challenges in modern life.

Rabbi Henkin was among the first who saw the need, together with his wife the Rabanit, to break ground with *yoetzot halacha* and Midreshet Nishmat, which recognizes contemporary woman's thirst to study and probe deeper layers of our holy Torah than was acceptable until now.

The Institute that he founded paved the way for bright women who have graduated midrashot and universities to engage in practical halacha by providing a feminine halachic approach to a variety of questions in diverse fields. In this way, he has applied halacha in modern life for thousands of women who



are eager to follow his halachic rulings and put them into practice.

In addition, he has extensive experience in community work. He has given guidance and rulings on questions that modern life brings to the fore daily in Israel and the entire world, while utilizing his profound and encyclopedic knowledge of the Torah's secrets combined with total fidelity to the halachic sources.

His famous, important book "Bnei Banim" on the first sections of the Shulchan Aruch, like his other rulings and responsa, is characterized by an in-depth and thorough analysis of each topic, beginning with the gemara until the rulings of the Achronim without the slightest inclination to be lenient or stringent. Each topic is examined on its own merits in accordance with total fidelity to the rules of *pesika* and the tradition passed down through the generations.

Our generation is characterized as one where huge and far-reaching shifts have taken place on many planes. Blessed with foresight, Rav Henkin answers the challenges facing the dati community of our times. He has created halachic tools for community rabbis on one hand, and on the other, for *agunos* chained by the Torah and their fear of God who desire to find a way to contribute to society beyond raising a Jewish family. His many rulings are characterized by exceptional halachic expertise, boldness, courage and sensitivity, and in parallel, total fidelity to halacha and awareness of the changes taking place in the modern world.



Rabbi Yehuda Herzl Henkin is worthy of respect and admiration for his landmark rulings in the area of women's status in Judaism, and his immense contribution in giving practical training to community rabbis consistent with his profound Torah vision based on the traditions passed down to us from earlier generations.

In consideration of all the above, the selection committee has decided to award Rabbi Yehuda Herzl Henkin the Katz Prize for 2018.

Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson

Rabbi Haim Sabato

Rabbi Aryeh Stern