

Announcing the new WOMEN'S Forum

Posted by the.guard - 26 Jan 2009 12:26

After much deliberation, it was decided to start a unique and separate section on this forum for women. I also moved all previous threads by women to the new section. (A special thanks to "Boruch" and "strugglingWoman" for being catalysts to this important step).

Here are the deliberations, the pros- the cons - and the final decision.

1) The 12 Steps groups around the world are intentionally mixed, even though it is known that the opposite sexes do trigger each other in group support - especially for addicts. And yes, this can -and has - led to trouble, but only with those who hadn't really hit bottom or weren't really ready for the groups yet. The idea behind the intentional mixing, is that the men **should learn to stop objectifying and sexualizing women**, and through hearing about their struggles and giving each other support, the men begin to see women in a different light. And this is an important part of the healing process.

2) **HOWEVER** - and this is a big **HOWEVER**, as frum people, we can't take these kind of risks, even if there is some benefit to be found in it. The risk of even one person falling is not worth the gain.

3) On the other hand, a forum is not the same as a live-group, and the risk on a forum is much smaller *le'chatchilah*. Therefore, there is more reason to say that the benefit mentioned above in #1 (of learning not to objectify women by hearing about their struggles too) would perhaps justify the miniscule risk, **even** on a frum forum.

4) Therefore, it was decided to make a compromise by starting a new board for women only, as outlined in the rules below.

Here are the new rules (and I would be happy to hear your feedback):

1) Women will start **NEW** threads only on the Women's Forum, and Men on the men's forum.

- 2) Both women and men will only be allowed to hook up with "partners" and "sponsors" of the same gender.
- 3) Both women and men may post replies to existing threads on both forums, to offer each other Chizuk.
- 4) Men or women who do post on forum's of the opposite gender will not go into detail about their own personal struggles.
- 5) Men will not send women, and women will not send men, personal messages through the forum, nor will they send each other e-mails, nor will they ask each other for phone numbers, even if the intention is to strengthen one another.
- 6) No one will post graphic details of their struggles on ANY of the forums, so as not to possibly trigger other people's imaginations. If you want to send us your story in more graphic detail (so that others can see that there is hope even when falling very low), you can send it first to eyes.guard@gmail.com and we will decide if/what parts are appropriate. (Note: Members should privately relay to the administrator any triggers they may spot in any post, so we can respond accordingly).
- 7) Anyone found deliberately violating the above rules will be "blocked" from the forum.

And one last "word to the wise". *"Yode'ah Tzadik Nefesh Be'hemto"*... If you feel you may be triggered by hearing about the struggles of the opposite gender, DO NOT ENTER the forum of the opposite gender **even if** you would like to offer Chizuk (you can press on the little "minus" sign next to the words "Internet Addiction Forum for Jewish Men/Women" to collapse it and keep it out of sight).

I think the above is a pretty good compromise. Happy to hear any thoughts or advice.

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Re: Announcing the new WOMEN'S Forum
Posted by mdmjerusalem - 09 Feb 2009 15:43

Hi Boruch **We are happy that you are well** and back with us here.

I hope that it was not the minor scuffle that knocked you down, my apologies if I hurt your feelings.

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Re: Announcing the new WOMEN'S Forum
Posted by boruch - 09 Feb 2009 17:33

[MD Ashdod wrote on 29 Jan 2009 16:40:](#)

Dearest Boruch

... It is due to **Kovod Hatorah** that I must utilize my time to denounce your action.

Sorry to disappoint you, I realize you like feel tough and enjoy to sound brave. Nevertheless you performed like a guest which supposes to comprehend the town's ins and outs on his initial stopover.

Do some research you will perceive that our Rebbe Guard has never had the slightest problem of agreeing. Precisely the opposite is true the Rebbe is too flexible, always trying to find some truth in the other's declaration.

MD, I am not the only one capable of missing the point. Just as I was and am not as familiar as you with Guard and the workings of the group you are equally not yet familiar with my posts and you read meanings into my words that were never there. I did not ever accuse Guard of being stubborn and difficult. I did, in my enthusiasm, go quite far in using him to describe the difficulties that anyone and everyone has asking, the seemingly legitimate reasons that we all often use to defer from asking and how we can all take a valuable lesson.

Yes, more respect was certainly due to Guard, not because of kovod hatorah, just because of basic derech erez and hakoras hatov (that's probably what you were trying to say). He is, after all, the founder of the site. And he has certainly been very patient with me despite the initial upheaval that some of my posts created. He was one of those, fortunately not too few here on this forum, who was able to see that beyond the bluster and turbulence there was actually someone genuine, trying to find himself and his place on these forums.

[MD Ashdod wrote on 29 Jan 2009 16:40:](#)

I feel sorry for offending you. And hope it is for the better.

Your Pal

You didn't offend me at all, people who cannot take discussion of their own shortcomings have no business discussing the shortcomings of others. So, yes, my diplomacy, derech erez and hakoras hatov were not what they should have been, and what I said could have been put quite differently, yes, I have many faults, but getting insulted by criticism is, at least, not one of them.

So, keep the feedback coming, especially the negative feedback, there's always room for improvement and if I am ever gone, it's not because you have upset me, it's because I am very busy.

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Re: Announcing the new WOMEN'S Forum

Posted by boruch - 09 Feb 2009 17:35

[MD Ashdod wrote on 09 Feb 2009 15:43:](#)

Hi Boruch **We are happy that you are well** and back with us here.

I hope that it was not the minor scuffle did that knocked you down, my apologies if I hurt your feelings.

Hi MD,

I actually didn't read any of your points here until this morning. No worries at all. Feel free to speak your mind, I am not the sensitive type and appreciate the feedback.

boruch

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Re: Announcing the new WOMEN'S Forum
Posted by mdmjerusalem - 09 Feb 2009 20:58

Thanks Boruch, We are happy to hear that you were not offended.

I perceive it is unnecessary to inspect what you "did" or "did not" write being that you understand that it was incorrect.

I would like end this conversation with some "short" piece advice, try to keep your comments **short and clear**, beating around the bush, confuses the readers, instigates machlokes, and misuses valuable time.

Bye Pal

MD

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Re: Announcing the new WOMEN'S Forum
Posted by boruch - 17 Feb 2009 18:42

[MD Ashdod wrote on 09 Feb 2009 20:58:](#)

I would like end this conversation with some "short" piece advice, try to keep your comments **short and clear**, beating around the bush, confuses the readers, instigates machlokes, and misuses valuable time.

Bye Pal

MD

working it...

boruch

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Re: Announcing the new WOMEN'S Forum
Posted by Ano Nymous - 18 Feb 2009 09:29

I just want to say that I actually enjoy boruch's verbosity as I think it allows him to really express himself clearly without leaving room for misunderstanding or misinterpretation. Sometimes being concise is not warranted because it is not effective. Keep it up boruch!!

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