



STATUS PENDING --PHOTO EXHIBIT

Clients of Yad L'isha: The Monica Dennis Goldberg Legal Aid Center and Hotline were the subject of a compelling photo exhibit which provides a glimpse into what it feels like to be sentenced to a lifetime in chains.

Called "Status: Pending," the exhibit captures the incredible pain, frustration and despair of 20 agunot and mesuravot get – women who are trapped in abusive, loveless marriages by husbands who have disappeared, are incapacitated, or who simply, stubbornly refuse to provide them with a get – the Jewish writ of divorce which will set them free.

The images, photographed by Israeli photographers Shabi Kedem, Nir Kedar, Lena Gomon and Chamutal Golan, have been exhibited in various locations throughout Israel including the Israeli Knesset and Jerusalem's First Station compound with the goal of increasing public awareness regarding the plight of chained women.



“I try to go on and rebuild my life, but the get is always hovering in the background.” – Inbar, has been denied a divorce for 3 years



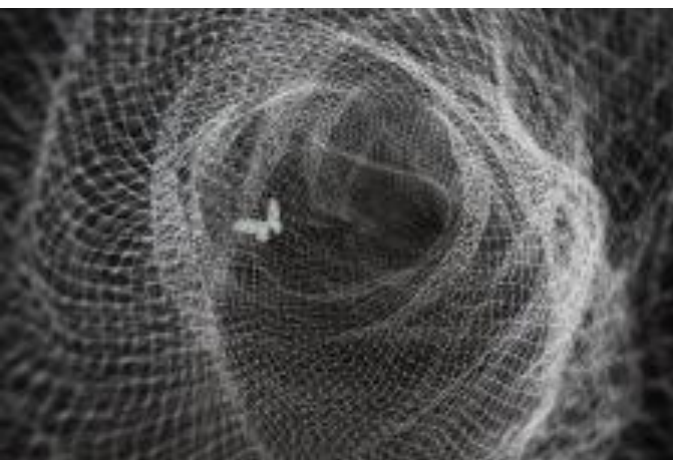
“I was terrified throughout my marriage, and I continue to live in fear today. Withholding a get is violence.” – O, has been denied a divorce for 3 years



“I feel as though I’m screaming as loudly as I can but that no one hears me.” – T, has been denied a divorce for 2 years



“He locked me in and took the keys with him.” – C, has been denied a divorce for 6 years



“My soul is raging, beautiful and curious, but it is also locked up and blocked. The future does not look good.” – A, has been denied a divorce for 7 years



“I liken my life to an anchor, moored deep in the earth. There is no growth, only immovable heaviness.” – A, aguna for 2 years



“My reality is heavy, I’m anxious to cast the heaviness off and raise my head.” – T, has been denied a divorce for 1.5 years



“All of the achievements and successes I’ve accomplished in life are being buried along with me.” – Y, has been denied a divorce for 9 years



“My marriage is like a noose which grows tighter and tighter around my neck.” – M, aguna for 6 years



“A bride who enters a marriage in handcuffs will never know happiness.” – N, has been denied a divorce for 5 years



“I can’t breathe. This terrible feeling of being in limbo – not married and not divorced – is closing in on me.” – D, has been denied a divorce for 10 years



“Each day that I don’t receive my get is another day that’s been stolen from me.” – A, has been denied a divorce for 4 years



“I am unable to concentrate on anything other than receiving my get.” – O, aguna for 7 years



“To be an aguna is to know that your life is controlled by somebody else.” – M, agunah for 3 years



“As a woman being denied a divorce I understood: I do not have control over my own life.” – M, has been denied a divorce for 4 years



“Even the incredible support I’m fortunate to have doesn’t provide me with any relief.” – C, has been denied a divorce for 3 years, Aguna for one year.



“I look at the world and at myself from the outside; I’m afraid to go in.” – N, has been denied a divorce for 6 years



“I escaped from my previous life and hope to find respite in my future one.” – D, aguna for 2 years



“My dream of starting a family grows more and more distant with each passing day.” – R, has been denied a divorce for 2.5 years



“My life is like a slingshot in between the sky and the earth. I await judgment.” – B, aguna for 4 years



“To be an aguna is to be alone.” – T, aguna for 5.5 years