



RABBI GIDEON

Machon Puah for Fertility and
Gynecology in Accordance with Halacha

WEITZMAN

Challenging Situations for Challenging Times

Last time we discussed the Likrat Kallah program that enables brides to go to the mikvah before their wedding, with constant accompaniment from PUAH and medical expert advice from our medical team.

As the war started, couples started to get married under complex circumstances and PUAH was a valuable resource for such couples. In the first two weeks of the war over 30 couples were helped by PUAH to get to the mikvah before their hurried wedding.

On average PUAH helped with more than two weddings every day. Each couple received counseling, a tailor-made plan from the doctors and access to PUAH's experts when necessary.

It quickly became clear that the same system can be used to help wives of soldiers who are fighting on the frontlines and who receive a few hours of leave to visit their homes. It is extremely important to give these exhausted troops the ability to have physical contact with their wives during these short respites in the fighting and time on the front.

PUAH offered this service for all women who wanted, and, in the first two weeks of the war, over 300 women turned to PUAH seeking expert advice. PUAH provided counseling for

these couples and made every effort to find halachic leniencies to enable the women to go to the mikvah or preserve a state of purity. When necessary and the women requested it, our doctors were able to prescribe medicine.

Unfortunately, PUAH was not able to solve every case and the PUAH Rabbis and counselors were faced with extremely difficult cases. Couples were reunited for short periods but were not able to give each other physical support and comfort. The Rabbis supported and empowered the couples that were faced with these challenges, and were able to give emotional support and encouragement, even when they were not able to touch.

Such counseling sessions proved the true inner strength and resilience of Am Yisrael. Couples knew that following the halacha was the correct thing to do, even when it was not always the easiest thing to do. It was so inspiring for myself and the other PUAH Rabbis to hear the deep desire of Jews to get halachic guidance even in these most trying times and complex realities. It is also a source of strength to know that halacha and God's word guides us through these challenging times and difficult conditions.

We see every day how the claim Am Yisrael Chai is not just a pleasant slogan but a beautiful reality. ■