



### **Practical Suggestions**

5. The following are several practical suggestions to avoid awkward situations regarding handshakes. They are not universally advisable, and one should evaluate on a case-by-case basis whether any of these suggestions would work in their situation:

- Some people choose to explain to members of the opposite gender, “In our religion, it is customary to only shake hands with members of the opposite gender within their immediate family.”
- While attending a business show or expo, some make sure to hold a coffee, laptop, papers, etc., so that a handshake is impractical.
- Some people arrange to have their spouse present when meeting a member of the opposite gender. This way, the husband can tell the female business associate, “My wife is here to shake your hand — twice, once for herself and once on my behalf!” (The same can be done when the genders are reversed.)

(See *Ben Aliyah B'olam Haparnassah*, p. 255)