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# WHERE WE STAND

DO JUSTLY, LOVE MERCY, WALK HUMBLLY WITH THY GOD

## SOCIAL ACTION RESOLUTIONS

AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATION

PUBLISHED BY THE  
UAHC FOR THE  
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION  
OF REFORM JUDAISM



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# Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism

Union of American Hebrew Congregations & Central Conference of American Rabbis

National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods • National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods • National Federation of Temple Youth

838 FIFTH AVENUE • NEW YORK 21, N. Y. • REGENT 7-8200

To: Rabbis  
Commission on Social Action  
Chairmen of Social Action Committees  
U.A.H.C. Board of Trustees  
Community Relations Councils

From: Irving Jay Fain, Chairman

Date: December 30, 1960

Subject: U.A.H.C. RESOLUTIONS ON SOCIAL ISSUES

AMERICAN JEWISH

The Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism is proud to send you herewith a copy of a new publication entitled "WHERE WE STAND", which is a compilation of the more significant resolutions on social issues adopted by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations from its inception in 1873 to the 45th Biennial Assembly in Miami Beach in 1959.

This compilation has been prepared in loose-leaf form so that you can keep it as a permanent reference work, and can add new resolutions as they are adopted in the period ahead. No doubt you will be struck, as I was, by the variety of moral issues which the UAHC confronted since its beginning. This reflects the deep concern of our Reform movement for the imperative of social justice.

I want to thank Miss Ruth Buchbinder, of the UAHC staff, for her efficient and conscientious work in helping to bring this valuable pamphlet into being.

I do hope that this material will be of help to you and to your congregation in strengthening your social action program to put into practice more effectively the moral ideals of the Jewish tradition.

As you know, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, which is a partner in the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism, publishes a separate compendium of its own resolutions, which can be secured directly from the CCAR office at 40 West 68th Street, New York 23, New York.

Please keep us informed of significant social action developments in your congregation and community, and feel free to call upon us for assistance at any time.

I.J.F.

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838 FIFTH AVENUE  
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PATRON AND PARENT BODY OF REFORM JUDAISM

WHERE WE STAND

Social Action Resolutions

adopted by the

UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS



Revised Edition

1960

Prepared for

THE COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION OF REFORM JUDAISM  
838 Fifth Avenue  
New York 21, N.Y.

## INTRODUCTION

These resolutions, adopted by the general assemblies of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, reflect the passion for social justice which has characterized American Reform Judaism from the inception of the UAHC in 1873.

The Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism is issuing this revised and up-dated compendium as part of its educational program, and as a resource for the 600 synagogues affiliated with the Union. These positions provide the mandate within which the Commission on Social Action operates in its mission to translate into practice the ethical ideals of the Jewish heritage. The Commission is sponsored jointly by the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, together with its affiliates, the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, Sisterhoods, and the National Federation of Temple Youth.

Needless to say, these are not ex cathedra statements to which every Reform Jew may subscribe. They represent the best thinking of accredited representatives of the Reform movement as applied to the major social issues of the day.

A careful study of the social ideals of Reform Judaism will aid us to act more effectively in helping to fashion a more humane, peaceful, and just world for all mankind.

Irving Jay Fain  
Chairman  
COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION

## Statement of Principles Regarding Social Action

We are the heirs of the great Jewish religious tradition which conceives of its ultimate goal as the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. The God whom we serve is a God of righteousness who would have us be holy as He is holy. The Torah which we cherish is a guide for spiritual living concerned with every aspect of human experience. The prophets of Israel, dedicated to God and the welfare of their fellow men, bade us pursue justice, seek peace, and establish brotherhood among all of God's creatures.

Judaism offers no easy escape from the problems of life. It rejects the device of passing all responsibility for social problems to God. In our tradition, man is called the co-worker or partner of God in the creation of a better world. Judaism insists that we must apply constantly the sharp ethical insights of the prophets to the specific social problems of our generation, as well as to the personal and individual problems of our lives.

It is in loyalty to this heritage, and in the furtherance of our ideal of righteousness that Reform Judaism has developed a program of social action which relates the ethical and spiritual teachings of our faith to the problems of our communities, of our country, and of the world, and which strives for a society guided by the principles of divine justice and mercy. This program is conducted through the Commission on Social Action, a joint instrumentality of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods, and the National Federation of Temple Youth. The primary objective of this Commission is, through programs of social study and social action in each Reform synagogue, to activate the ideals of Judaism in the lives of our congregants. Such programs must be integral and essential aspects of synagogue activity. A synagogue which isolates itself from the fundamental issues of social justice confronting the community and the nation is false to the deepest traditions and values of the Jewish heritage.

What are these traditions? What are these values? And what are some of their implications for us today?

Judaism gave to the world the concept of the sanctity and dignity of the individual. All men are equal in that they are created in the image of God. "One law and one ordinance shall be both for you, and for the stranger that sojourneth with you" (Numbers 15:16). Respect for the civil rights of all men is each man's duty to God. We Jews are challenged by our religion to support the basic human rights of every one: "What is hateful unto thee, do not do unto thy neighbor" (Talmud Shabbos 8). As Jews and as Americans, dedicated to the democratic tradition, we are impelled to join with our fellows in overcoming bigotry and prejudice, in seeking through education and legislation the elimination of discrimination and segregation because of race,

religion, or national origin, in demanding for ourselves and for all other Americans equality of opportunity in work, home, health and education.

Judaism teaches that each man has a right to express or keep private the dictates of his soul, for the soul is the divine element in man and cannot be interfered with by other men or governments of men. "The spirit of man is the light of the Lord": (Proverbs 20:27). The Talmud teaches that where honest differences prevail and agreements are difficult: "These and those are the words of the living God." It was that "flaming fire with" (Jeremiah 25:9) that impelled the prophet to speak out even at grave personal risk. These rights of conscience were enshrined in the Bill of Rights, the cornerstone of the American constitutional system.

We view with deep concern the growing attack upon these principles in American life today. Judaism is fundamentally antagonistic to tyranny -- whether it be totalitarian tyranny manipulated from abroad, or a domestic tyranny foisted on the American people in the name of anti-communism. We believe that subversion and espionage can and must be effectively opposed without destroying the tradition of individual freedom on which democracy is based. We believe that the religious ideals of justice and security for all men can be fulfilled only in an atmosphere of freedom and security, not in an atmosphere of fearful conformity and suspicion. We pledge ourselves to join with all freedom-loving forces in our community and nation to reverse the alarming trend toward suspicion, recrimination, fear, and the equation of dissent with disloyalty. We pledge our unremitting vigilance to the end that neither communist intrigue nor reckless demagoguery shall be allowed to corrode the fundamental liberties which have their origin in religious ideals.

Judaism has always emphasized that our ethical ideals must also be applied to the economic processes of society. Our society must be judged by the extent to which men are enabled to achieve, through their work, a decent standard of living, and to provide for themselves and their families the fullest possible protection of their mental and physical health. We pledge ourselves to the achievement of this ideal not only on the national and world scenes, but most particularly in the conduct of our individual business and professional lives.

Another of the most sacred of our Jewish religious teachings is the vision given us by the prophets of a Messianic Age of peace, the time when nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning-hooks. Motivated by our belief in world brotherhood, the Jewish community has supported enthusiastically the United Nations as the best available instrumentality for the gradual accomplishment of world peace. We have rejoiced in its constructive achievements in the improvement of health standards in many parts of the world, in the control of narcotics traffic, in child welfare, in technical assistance to underdeveloped nations, in the UN's prophetic declarations on Human Rights, Genocide, and similar world problems. We have been deeply concerned about the lack of progress recorded within the councils of the United Nations in easing international tensions. Yet we have remained

hopeful that our country, committed firmly to international cooperative action and backed strongly by our citizenry, could continue to exercise leadership in the UN in the direction of world peace.

But we see powerful, organized forces in America striving to weaken the UN and its agencies, pressing even to force the withdrawal of our country from the United Nations. We see a movement to prohibit teaching in our schools about the UN and its activities. We see isolationist groups attempting to sabotage the Covenant on Human Rights and the ratification of the Genocide Convention. We see these tendencies and we are deeply disturbed. We pledge ourselves to the task of strengthening international cooperation for peace.

We must be constantly aware that the fundamental contest between democracy and tyranny is a struggle for the loyalties and minds of men. Armaments, however necessary and however awesome, cannot win this all-important contest. We can win ultimately only by demonstrating constantly and conclusively that democracy is dynamic, that it spurns colonialism and racism, that it can and will address itself to the continuing problem of world poverty, that it offers a way for people to solve their crushing problems and still be free.

We can win this contest only by affirmative deeds. A Marshall Plan, a Point Four program of technical assistance, President Eisenhower's plan for an international atomic pool for peaceful pursuits, achievements of a more humane U.S. immigration policy than the one we now have, can be mightier weapons in this contest than a thousand H-Bombs. A decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, outlawing segregation in American public schools, speaks more loudly than a thousand propaganda broadcasts over a thousand Voices of America. In the same way, resolute action by the American people to cleanse our nation of the poison of fear and suspicion would immeasurably strengthen us in the continuing ideological struggle against communism. We must constantly prove that democracy works. Thus, the propaganda bombardments of world communism will be revealed as a collection of false and cynical slogans, and democracy will be welcomed in places where its blessings will lift hearts and hopes and point the way to a more promising future. We pledge ourselves to this momentous task.

Jewish religious bodies -- and certainly Reform synagogues -- have a deep responsibility to seek to strengthen democracy and the ideals of justice by translating our faith into concrete social action. Such Jewish ideals as reverence for individual freedom, love of peace, concern for the weak, equitable relationships between employer and employee, regard for the stranger, and many others are strikingly relevant to the current world scene. We urge establishment of a standing committee charged with the responsibility of educating the membership on the application of these ideals to contemporary social issues as an indispensable part of the program of every synagogue. Such committees will enable us to orient our individual lives and help shape our society by the ethical imperatives of our faith.

Through an intelligent program of social justice in the synagogue we help to bridge the gap between confession and commitment, between word



and deed, and thus bring a sense of greater reality to our faith. We as Jews fulfill ourselves by working for the establishment of justice and peace which are fundamental to Judaism as they are to democracy. In the words of our prayer book: "O may all created in Thine image recognize that they are brethren, so that, one in spirit and one in fellowship, they may be forever united before Thee. Then shall Thy kingdom be established on earth and the word of Thine ancient seer be fulfilled. The Lord will reign for ever and ever."



REVISED CHARTER OF THE JOINT COMMISSION ON SOCIAL ACTION  
OF THE UAHC AND CCAR

Preamble

We are the heirs of the great Jewish tradition which conceives of its ultimate goal as the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. The God whom we serve is a God of righteousness who would have us be holy as He is holy. The Torah which we cherish is a guide for spiritual living concerned with every aspect of human experience. The prophets of Israel, dedicated to God and the welfare of their fellow men, bid us pursue justice, seek peace, and attain brotherhood with everyone of God's creatures, whatever their race, creed, or class. In loyalty to our priceless heritage, in the furtherance of our historic ideal of righteousness, we, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis, jointly create a Commission for Social Action and dedicate it to the following goals:

- I. The Social Action Commission shall relate the ethical and spiritual principles of Judaism as expressed in the teachings of the Torah, of the prophets, of the sages and rabbis of Israel to the problems of the world we know today, in order that our society may be established on the principles of divine justice and love and of human brotherhood.
- II. The Commission shall prepare studies with the aid of authorities and specialists on challenging social issues and suggest specific solutions wherever possible, taking appropriate action when deemed advisable.
  - A. It shall uphold the inalienable divine rights of men as interpreted in our Torah and in the American Bill of Rights and Constitution. It shall seek to extend these rights and secure them whenever and wherever denied.
  - B. It shall work to ultimate discrimination based on race, religion, or national origin to the end that all men may enjoy equality of opportunity.
  - C. It shall study the causes of war and advocate measures which will advance the establishment of a lasting peace based on the principles of justice and world unity.
  - D. It shall examine the relations between management and labor where ethical issues are involved. It shall suggest solutions in keeping with Judaism's teachings of righteousness.
  - E. It may urge other policies and practices that will enable society to develop and utilize God's abundant earth for the welfare of all mankind.
- III. It may communicate its findings to the UAHC and to its constituent congregations, to the CCAR and its individual members, and to such other organizations and individuals as it may deem proper for its purposes. It shall urge acceptance of these principles and appro-

private action thereon. It shall encourage the promotion of social action committees within the congregations.

It shall likewise disseminate as widely as possible the results of its studies.

- IV. It may cooperate with like-minded groups in any phase of its work and may join with them in issuing statements.



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I. NATIONAL ISSUES

A. Immigration

21st Council

January 1909

Philadelphia, Pa.

PROTESTING WORD "HEBREW" IN IMMIGRATION

In view of the fact that the Immigration Commission of the United States Government has sent out blanks to all the schools and Colleges of the United States with a view of obtaining the statistical data of the Immigration, and in the instruction given therewith, the list presents the Hebrew alongside of the Russian, German, Bohemian, Croatian, Magyar and so forth (indicating thereby that the Jew represents a specific nationality in the country which he dwelt, as citizen of Germany, France, Austria etc., the Union of American Hebrew Congregations re-emphasizes its basic principle, that the Jew constitutes a religious community as does the Catholic, the Lutheran or any other denomination and not a Nationality in any political sense, and that therefore, the implication made by these instructions and blanks is to be deprecated, -therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations be instructed to address a communication to the Immigration Bureau of the United States Government (embodying this resolution) and requesting that the word Hebrew be omitted in future blanks.

\* \* \* \* \*

24th Council

January 1915

Chicago, Ill.

PROTESTING ILLITERACY TEST REQUIREMENT

WHEREAS, The President of the United States has now before him for action an Immigration Bill which has passed both Houses of Congress, containing an Illiteracy Test forbidding the admission of immigrants over sixteen years of age, incapable of reading, which measure would, in the opinion of leaders of public thought through-out the United States, of all races and creeds, be detrimental to the best interests of the United States by establishing false and un-American standards of admission and would deprive the country of the needed labor of those eager to prove themselves to be honest and worthy citizens of our beloved country; and

WHEREAS, The said bill contains a supposed exemption of victims of religious persecution, so phrased as to be practically ineffective in administration while erroneously inducing victims of European intolerance and discriminatory laws to believe that the hallowed American right of asylum has been safeguarded; and

WHEREAS, The present time is particularly inopportune to restrict immigration to this country, especially in view of the terrible misfortunes to which shocking carnage abroad is subjecting so many, be it

RESOLVED, That the Twenty-fourth Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in council assembled, sincerely deprecate the principles embodied in said Immigration Bill and vigorously urge the President of the United States to veto the same, and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States and the presiding officer of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and be it

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be personally presented to the President of the United States by the Board of Delegates on Civil Rights at the hearing on this subject to be held before the President; and be it further

RESOLVED, That our Board of Delegates be authorized and directed to take such further steps as they may deem proper to carry out the spirit and tenor of these Resolutions.

\* \* \* \* \*

27th Council

May 1921

Buffalo, N. Y.

#### PROTESTING RESTRICTIVE IMMIGRATION

The Immigration Law just passed is in terms an emergency measure, temporary in character, enacted by reason of bad economic conditions here and abroad. We express the hope that early improvement in these conditions will induce Congress soon to return to our historic American policy of welcoming all immigrants seeking to enter who are physically, mentally and morally sound, and in sympathy with our government and its institutions, and are not contract laborers or persons likely to become public charges.

We heartily commend the indefatigable and untiring activities of the venerable Chairman of the Board of Delegates on Civil Rights.

## URGING REVISION OF IMMIGRATION LAWS

WHEREAS, We have had two years' experience with the new Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (McCarran-Walter Act); and

WHEREAS, In President Eisenhower's own words our basic immigration and naturalization laws should be "a statute which will at the same time guard our legitimate national interest and be faithful to our basic ideas of freedom and fairness to all"; and

WHEREAS, We believe in an affirmative immigration policy for America, one which will welcome without racial, national, religious, or other discriminations, those who seek to immigrate and become part of our national life, consonant with our national security;

WHEREAS, It has already been demonstrated that, despite several beneficial changes accomplished by the McCarran-Walter Act, it, nevertheless, does not carry out the basic principles above stated in which we believe;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That every effort should be made to revise our basic immigration and naturalization laws with the view to eliminating the injustices and the serious and inequitable restrictions contained therein; and to that end be it further

RESOLVED, That the members of the 84th Congress be urged to give this problem their earnest and serious consideration, and to further that end, that Congressional hearings be requested, all with a view to ensuring a sound immigration and naturalization law for the United States.

\* \* \* \* \*

28th Council

January 1923

New York

## PROTESTING ALIEN REGISTRATION

WHEREAS, There are pending before the Congress of the United States bills, requiring the annual registration of all aliens in this country, with deportation as the penalty for non-compliance, even in case of pure oversight, and with the probable result that compliance will lead to an enormous number of deportations to foreign lands on purely technical grounds, with-

out time limit, of persons having their family ties and all their interests here, and

WHEREAS, These bills are frankly patterned on the unpopular Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, and the harsh and oppressive Chinese Exclusion Law machinery in force, and would give unlimited opportunities throughout the country for blackmail, extortion and oppression, and are apt to cause injuries to the seven million aliens in this country, scarcely paralleled in our day, despite the desire of some of their framers that a part use of such registration be to aid (though ineffectively) in educating the immigrants in civics, through the department also having charge of deportations, be it

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in Council assembled, while recognizing that this is a matter concerning immigrants of all faiths, expresses its unqualified and emphatic disapproval of such measures, and of all invidious discrimination against, and segregation of, aliens; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded by the Board of Delegates on Civil Rights to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Labor and the Chairman of the Committees on Immigration and Naturalization of the U. S. Senate and the House of Representatives.

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40th Council

November 1948

Boston, Mass.

#### DEPRECATING "DISPLACED PERSONS" LEGISLATION

We deprecate the legislation enacted by the 80th Congress on the subject of "Displaced Persons." It not only failed to meet the challenge of the emergency, but in its patently discriminatory provisions shocked the moral sense of most Americans.

We call upon the approaching Congress to so modify this legislation as to remove these objectionable features, to restore to America its traditional policy toward the oppressed; to offer asylum to the worthy, ever remembering that it was of such groups from the beginning of our history, that this great American democracy was formed.

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PROTESTING NATIONAL ORIGIN QUOTAS OF McCARRAN-WALTER  
IMMIGRATION LAW

WHEREAS, The highest traditions of Jewish and American life affirm the moral worth of every man regardless of race, religion, or national origin, and

WHEREAS, The United States has been the "Mother of Exiles" and the haven of the oppressed throughout history, and

WHEREAS, The fabric of our democracy has been woven out of the love and loyalty of peoples of diverse backgrounds,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED,

That we condemn those provisions of the McCarran-Walter Act that contain national origins quotas, threats to the security of foreign-born citizens, and those other violations of the essentials of democracy, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we applaud President Eisenhower for his opposition to this law, which he characterized as "thoroughly undemocratic in its nature"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we call upon the Congress of the United States to amend the McCarran-Walter Act in such manner as to reaffirm America's position as the defender of the free human spirit by enacting democratic and workable immigration legislation.

\* \* \* \* \*

44th General Assembly

April 1957

Toronto

URGING U.S. ADMISSION OF EGYPTIAN JEWISH REFUGEES

We feel constrained to express our deep disappointment over the decision of the Administration not to admit to the United States a fair number of refugees from Egyptian persecution. This decision, as stated by Deputy Attorney General Rogers on April 18, was that the President would not exercise the parole authority of our immigration law in behalf of the Egyptian refugees.

This indifference to the tragic plight of the innocent victims of Nasser's inhumanity stands in sharp contrast to the prompt and generous succor offered with the warm support of the American people, to those who fled from Communist tyranny in Hungary. There is no justification in law or in morality for such a double standard. The U.S. failure to aid Egyptian expellees is unworthy of the great American tradition of asylum. The United States should do no less to ameliorate this human tragedy than have other free nations, notably Canada, which has sent a mission to Cairo to facilitate family reunions on Canadian soil for the victims of Egyptian terror.

We urgently request the President of the United States to reconsider this decision so that the United States may open its doors to a fair portion of the hapless refugees from Egypt.

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## AMERICAN JEWISH

### URGING AMENDMENTS TO McCARRAN-WALTER IMMIGRATION LAW

Unanimously adopted by the 45th Biennial General Assembly  
Miami Beach, Fla. - November 14-19, 1959

In December, 1958, the United Nations adopted a resolution designating the period of July 1, 1959, to June 30, 1960, as World Refugee Year. A United States Committee for Refugees was organized to further American participation in World Refugee Year to inform the public about world refugee issues and to stimulate research on refugee problems. In the performance of its functions, the U. S. Committee is to consult with U. S. Government and UN Officials and work closely with American voluntary agencies in the refugee field.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is happy to cooperate with the World Refugee Year. It believes, however, that the plight of refugees cannot be resolved by patchwork but as part of the entire migration problem of the world. In the United States this can be done by enacting a sound immigration law which recognizes that all the peoples of the world are brothers. We therefore,

a. Call upon the 86th Congress to respond to the challenge of the World Refugee Year by enacting amendments to the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 which will (1) eliminate the discriminatory national origins quota system and substitute an equitable, non-discriminatory formula for the admission of immigrants into the United States, (2) remove the harsh and unnecessary deportation provisions from the law, (3) establish fair appellate procedures in immigration and nationality matters, (4) eliminate inequities against naturalized citizens.

b. Pledge to cooperate with the U. S. Committee for Refugees and all other appropriate efforts to further the worthy aims of World Refugee Year.

c. Reiterate our resolve to continue, in cooperation with other like-minded organizations, with our programs of public information and education to help bring about an informed public opinion on the subject of an improved American immigration policy.



I. NATIONAL ISSUES

B. Civil Rights

34th Council

March 1935

Washington, D. C.

URGING ENFORCEMENT OF ANTI-LYNCHING MEASURES

We urge the enforcement of adequate measures, both preventive and punitive, to curb the lynching evil in various sections of this country. It is in accord with the historic Jewish traditions to protest against such injustice and cruelty, and we commend the Rabbis and lay leaders who, conformably with their tradition, have taken a courageous position on this question.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
A R C H I V E S  
\* \* \* \* \*

39th Council

March 1946

Cincinnati, Ohio

FAVORING FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

We deplore the discrimination against minority groups in many phases of our communal life, and especially in the matter of unemployment and, therefore, favor the enactment of legislation for the establishment of fair employment practices committees to combat such discrimination.

We trust that industrial peace will speedily be achieved to the end that we may establish economic security and a decent standard of living for all elements of our population.

We welcome home the returning veterans, proud of their achievements, their bravery, and selflessness. We pay our tribute to their fallen comrades, who gave their lives for the liberties of mankind. We are glad that educational opportunities have been made available by law for the returning veterans, and recognize that a grateful nation must be most generous in providing them with employment, adequate housing and the other essentials, for decent living.

\* \* \* \* \*



ENDORISING PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

We endorse the recommendations of the President's Commission on Civil Rights, and trust that they will be speedily enacted into law.

\* \* \* \* \*

AMERICAN JEWISH  
URGING MORE ADEQUATE HOUSING

We urge the following matters of domestic interest in consonance with our religious convictions and the sense of social justice, which is basic to Judaism:

1. We are greatly disturbed by the serious dislocations in family life caused by the national housing shortage, and we recognize that there is no remedy for this situation except through public subsidies and aids. We hope that legislation will be enacted speedily to solve the acute housing problem of millions of our fellow-Americans, making possible for them normal family living so essential for moral, physical and spiritual well-being.

\* \* \* \* \*

ENDORISING PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

The finding of the President's Commission on Education has indicated that large masses of Americans do not have adequate and equal educational opportunities. We heartily endorse the majority report of the Commission and hope that equal educational opportunities will be made available to all Americans through adequate national and state legislation.

ENDORISING RECOMMENDATIONS OF PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION  
ON CIVIL RIGHTS

As we who subscribe to the belief in the brotherhood of man survey the national scene, we note with great regret the discriminations from which many Americans suffer at the hands of their fellow-Americans. Such discriminations because of race, color or creed are a violation of the will of God and of the principle of equal liberty to all, so basic to the American philosophy.

THEREFORE, We reaffirm the resolution adopted by the 40th General Assembly of the UAHC reading as follows: "We endorse the recommendations of the President's commission on civil rights and trust that they will be speedily enacted into law."

\* \* \* \* \*

43rd General Assembly February 1955 Los Angeles, Calif.

IMPLEMENTING U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION ON SCHOOL SEGREGATION

Having consistently opposed every form of discrimination because of our fundamental belief in the equality of all men under God, we rejoice in the unanimous decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the school segregation cases. We regard this decision as a major chapter in the history of the growth of true equality under the law.

As proponents of Judaism, which first enunciated the concept of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man, we pledge ourselves to do all within our power to make this decision of the highest court in the land meaningful in our respective communities.

We therefore urge our congregants and congregations in all sections of the country to join with forward-looking racial, religious, and civic groups in the community in using their influence to secure acceptance and implementation of the desegregation decisions in every community in our land.

\* \* \* \* \*

44th Council

April 1957

Toronto, Canada

SUPPORTING U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION BANNING  
SEGREGATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations reiterates its unequivocal support of the United States Supreme Court decisions banning racial segregation in the public schools, as set forth in the resolution adopted by the 43rd General Assembly.

\* \* \* \* \*

44th Council

April 1957

Toronto, Canada

ENDORING PRESIDENT'S EISENHOWER'S CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM

At its last General Assembly, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations urged our government to take measures for protection of the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans. President Eisenhower's civil rights program is an important forward step in the safeguarding of these rights and liberties.

Our Union fully endorses the President's program and urges the Congress to enact it speedily into law.

\* \* \* \* \*

44th Council

April 1957

Toronto, Canada

SUPPORTING NON-SEGREGATED HOUSING

We recognize that racial segregation is not a problem which applies to one section of the country only, but that it presents a moral challenge to every community in America with varying forms and intensity. One of its serious and widespread expressions is in residential housing. In the North, as well as in the South, the continuing patterns of segregation in private housing threatens to invalidate much of the progress which has been made in civil rights in recent years and, also, to impair the spiritual values of religion and democracy alike. We therefore commend those Christian

denominations which have recently met this challenge with boldness and courage by calling upon their members to open housing on a non-discriminatory, and non-segregated basis. By their action these church groups have pointed to the path of religious duty.

In this spirit, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations herewith pledges its support to the principle of equal housing opportunities for all and urges the members of its constituent congregations to follow non-segregated practices in the selling, buying, and leasing of residential housing. By such action, we will contribute significantly to the strengthening of democracy, to the moral health of our communities, and to the realization of the prophetic principles of our faith.

\* \* \* \* \*

45th General Assembly

November 1959

Miami Beach, Fla.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES  
URGING LEGISLATION ON NON-SEGREGATED HOUSING

Because of our profound commitment to the equality of all men under God, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has consistently opposed every form of discrimination.

Out of this conviction, we have supported the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the school segregation cases and have pledged to do all within our power to make this decision meaningful in our respective communities. We here rededicate ourselves to achieving an harmonious and peaceful implementation of this decision.

At the 44th General Assembly of the Union, the Union pledged "support to the principle of equal housing opportunities for all and urges the members of its constituent congregations to follow non-segregated practices in the selling, buying and leasing of residential housing." The past two years have focused new attention on the grave problems involved in the spreading pattern of racial segregation in private housing in the North as well as the South. Because housing underlies all other aspects of race relations, this pattern of segregated housing threatens to cancel out many of the gains which have been made in civil rights in the past few years and, also, to invalidate the spiritual values professed by our religious heritage.

In this spirit, we urge appropriate legislation by national, state, and local government to assure equality of opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, religion, or national ancestry. We particularly commend those states and local communities which have adopted effective legislation to provide equality in private as well as public housing.

We call upon our congregations to study this problem of housing discrimination as it affects their own communities and states, to examine the moral imperatives of Judaism, and to translate these imperatives into concrete action to remove the unjust barriers which men have created against their fellow men. Specifically, we urge members of our congregations to welcome persons as neighbors irrespective of race, religion or national ancestry.

In this holy task, we pledge our cooperation to all those forward-looking religious, racial, and civic groups who share our concern in realizing the goal of equality which is basic to the democratic heritage and the Judeo-Christian tradition.



I. NATIONAL ISSUES

C. Religious Liberty

1st Council

July 1874

Cleveland, Ohio

CONTRIBUTING TESTIMONIAL TO CENTENNIAL EXPOSITION

WHEREAS, At the second Constitutional Convention of the Independent Order of B'nai B'rith, held at Chicago, January 1864, certain resolutions were passed in reference to the contribution of a suitable work of statuary to the Centennial Exposition on the part of the Israelites of the United States, and a committee was appointed to confer with and solicit cooperation from the Israelites at large throughout the United States, for the consummation of this object; and

WHEREAS, The Centennial Committee of the I.O.B.B. has concluded arrangements with the American Jewish sculptor, M. Ezekiel, for the execution of this work of art, which, as designed, is to represent the idea of "Religious Liberty": and

WHEREAS, It is the province and duty of this Convention to signalize its appreciation of this noble project, which is to perpetuate in enduring manner the testimony of our love and recognition of liberty and freedom of conscience in this blessed land; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in convention assembled, does hereby signify its affiliation with the movement toward contributing this testimonial to the Centennial Exposition on the part of the Israelites of the United States.

RESOLVED, That a special committee of five be appointed to cooperate with such other committees as are or may be appointed from other Jewish organizations for the purpose of carrying into effect this worthy project.

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3rd Council

July 1876

Washington, D. C.

COMMENDING THE "CONGRESS OF LIBERALS"

WHEREAS, It is one of the greatest aims and objects of this Union of American Hebrew Congregations now in session in Washington City,

to encourage and to sympathize with any movement, with any organization or association which promotes religious liberty, and endeavors to uphold the great principle of equality as expressed in the constitution of this great Republic; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Convention tenders its sincerest expressions of sympathy and gratification to the "Congress of Liberals" for their noble and energetic efforts in their convention just held in Philadelphia, to secularize the State completely and to protest against all such laws of State or States, which are calculated to endanger the bulwarks of perfect freedom and Justice.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the President of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations appoint a Committee to draft suitable resolutions and the same be transmitted to the Secretary of the "Congress of Liberals."

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AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

26th Council

May 1919

Boston, Mass.

AMENDING COVENANT OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS TO INCLUDE  
RELIGIOUS LIBERTY CLAUSE

WHEREAS, The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is meeting at a time when our beloved country is rejoicing in the close of the World War and in the triumph of the principle of democracy, and

WHEREAS, The complete emancipation of oppressed peoples has been the inspiring watchword of those who fought to make the world free and

WHEREAS, Despite this solemn promise, in behalf of which so many lives have been offered and so much sorrow endured, the position of Israel in the World still remains a question of public controversy while Jews in some eastern lands continue to be deprived of the fundamental human rights and to be denied civil, political and religious equality, and

WHEREAS, The appalling oppressions, persecution and slaughter of our people have persisted even during and since the close of the war, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Council assembled in the city of Boston, Mass., U.S.A., record its profound sympathy with the oppressed and suffering of the House of Israel, that we pledge our readiness to extend to them every help in our power; and that we herewith issue a solemn pro-

test against the wrongs inflicted upon them and demand that the Powers of the World put an end to these horrors which serve to mock and defeat the righteous aims proclaimed by the Allies.

We record our profound sense of regret that the Covenant of the League of Nations, which is part of the Treaty of Peace, has failed to include a religious clause. We note, however, that the Treaty of Peace in providing for the creation of the new state of Poland, assigns the question of religious liberty among others to a special commission of the Allied and Associated Powers and Poland. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations herewith voices the ardent hope of all lovers of liberty that the efforts of our American delegates be successful, and that similar provisions be inserted in the treaties by which other new states are to be created or existing states enlarged.

The Union further makes the earnest appeal that in order to protect the religious rights of all men in all lands the Covenant of the League of Nations be amended by the addition of a clause substantially to the following effect:

The high contracting parties to this covenant agree to religious liberties within their several states, to the end that their respective citizens or subjects will in no way be deprived of, or discriminated against, in their political, civil or economic rights on account of their religious beliefs or creeds.

In view of the fact that under Article V of the Covenant of the League of Nations the first meeting of the Assembly and the first meeting of the Council of the League have been summoned by the President of the United States to convene in Washington in October, 1919.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, through its President, appoint a commission to urge an amendment, substantially of such tenor, before the Assembly and Council of the League of Nations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That other organizations which share with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations this sentiment in behalf of religious liberty be invited to cooperate with the commission to be appointed.

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ENDORISING OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S  
MESSAGE OF CONGRESS

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Convention assembled sends its greetings to the President of the United States and expresses its joy in and appreciation of the recognition and encouragement he has given to religion as an institution indispensable to Americans.

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37th Council AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES April 1941 Detroit, Mich.

EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION TO  
PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Convention assembled send its thanks to the President of the United States for his warm greeting to the Convention and express its profound admiration for his continued advocacy before the world of the high precept that democracy is founded primarily on the law of God, for his untiring efforts in support of that principle and for his courageous denunciation at all times of all forms of religious intolerance and persecution.

\* \* \* \* \*

38th Council

April 1943

New York, N. Y.

SAFEGUARDING RIGHTS OF JEWS AFTER  
WORLD WAR II

God uses men and people at great moments in history as the instruments of revelation. The four Freedoms, the Atlantic Charter, Collective Security, common responsibility for a just and enduring peace enunciated by our President and his advisers and the leaders of the United Nations have practical goals which may be measurably realized. To their achievement we pledge our unreserved devotion.

While the Four Freedoms must be applied to all persons of whatever faith, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations is deeply concerned with the fate of Jews in all lands who are suffering special hardships and even loss of life simply because they are Jews. We call upon our Government and, through it, on the United Nations, to see that in the post-war settlement adequate provision shall be made to safeguard their rights, as well as the rights of all people who have been persecuted because of race or religion. We urge that adequate provision be made for their rehabilitation in new homes and in Palestine. We ask that our Government use its good offices to see that Palestine is opened as quickly as possible for settlement of as many Jews as desire to go there and who can be taken care of.

\* \* \* \* \*

45th General Assembly      November 1959      Miami Beach, Fla.

#### FAVORING DISSEMINATION OF BIRTH CONTROL INFORMATION

Judaism is dedicated to the sanctity of human life. Jewish tradition emphasizes the importance of spiritual and material well-being in secure family groups. Therefore, we are concerned with restrictions placed upon the availability of information and medical assistance in the planning of families. We fully recognize the right of all persons, for religious reasons or otherwise, to abstain from or to practice birth control as they see fit. However, the failure of large sections of our population to plan their families effectively is due neither to conscience nor to free choice, but rather to legal and official obstacles imposed upon many Americans with the result depriving them of knowledge and medical assistance in this field. This dearth of information and assistance most directly affects those families which, for lack of financial and educational resources, have the greatest need. Many social problems, including desertion, non-support of families, illegitimacy, high divorce rates, mental and emotional instability, may be the result in part of ineffectual birth control practices in our society.

When government responds to the theological beliefs of any religious group by interfering with the dissemination of birth control information to all who desire it, such interference represents an improper imposition of such religious beliefs upon the community at large.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

a. We favor the elimination of all restrictions and prohibitions against the dissemination of birth control information and the rendering of birth control assistance by qualified physicians, clinics, and hospitals.

b. We favor the wider dissemination of birth control information and medical assistance, both by private groups such as the Planned Parenthood Federation of America; and health agencies of local, state, and the federal government as a vital service to be rendered in the field of public health.

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45th General Assembly

November 1959

Miami Beach, Fla.

PROTESTING STATE IMPOSITION OF RELIGIOUS TEST  
IN CHILD ADOPTION

In recent years, many Americans have sought to adopt children of a different religious origin than their own.

From this situation, the question has arisen whether the State may properly impose a religious test upon the adoptive parents.

In some communities, interreligious controversy has resulted.

We, therefore, deem it appropriate to make the following declaration:

It is entirely proper from the Jewish religious viewpoint to incorporate into a Jewish family a child of non-Jewish birth.

Since, however, Jewish religious tradition regards any child born of a Jewish mother as fully Jewish, we understand why other religious groups may similarly desire to retain within their denominations children born to mothers of their respective faiths. We protest, however, against the use, officially or unofficially, of the power of the State to carry out this religious objective. Such a religious objective should be striven for through the influence of each religious group upon its own adherents. The use of the power of the State for such a religious objective is a violation of the principle of separation of Church and State.

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## OPPOSING RELIGIOUS TEST FOR PUBLIC OFFICE

The Union is profoundly interested in healthy interreligious relationships in American life. In addition, we are vitally concerned with the maintenance of religious liberty for every citizen.

Therefore, we express our dismay over statements made and positions taken by a few religious groups in outright opposition to the possible nomination for President or Vice-President of the United States of any person of the Roman Catholic faith. Without expressing any partisanship in favor of, or in opposition to, any political party or candidate for any political office, we adopt the following principles which we deem essential to the preservation of a meaningful freedom of religion in the selection of persons for public office:

a. We oppose all religious tests for office, and deem the suggestion that the profession of any religious belief or disbelief should automatically disqualify a person from holding any office, to be fundamentally at variance with our democratic principle that religion lies within the realm of personal conscience.

b. The separation of church and state, to which we are wholeheartedly dedicated, is a concept developed in American life for the purpose of supporting and enhancing meaningful religious freedom, and any position taken in the name of the separation of church and state that derogates religious freedom and encourages religious bigotry, subverts the very purpose and intent of that concept.

I. NATIONAL ISSUES

D. Individual Liberty

41st Council

November 1950

Cleveland, Ohio

URGING CAUTION IN CHARGING INDIVIDUAL AS COMMUNIST

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, by its very nature, is committed to the democratic way of life. We are convinced that neither religion in general, nor Judaism in particular, can flourish in any except the free countries of the world.

We express our abhorrence of and unyielding opposition to every totalitarian form of government, whether of the Communist or fascist variety. We approve the action of the United Nations in its vigorous resistance against Communist aggression.

We recognize Communism as a serious menace to our liberties. We are also conscious of the danger involved to the reputation of innocent individuals if irresponsible and unproved charges of subversion are made.

While we insist that no effort be spared in ridding our governmental and quasi-governmental activities of Communists, we urge the exercise of care and caution in making the charge that an individual is a Communist, and a fair and just disposition of such charge when made.

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42nd Council

April 1953

New York, N. Y.

TECHNIQUES OF COMBATING COMMUNISM WITHOUT  
SUBVERTING CIVIL LIBERTIES

We recognize the continuing danger to America and world freedom and above all to religious freedom, from the forces of Communism. Constant vigilance is needed to guard against these dangers. We support efforts to guard our liberties against subversion, through proper governmental agencies and due process of law. Yet we recognize that wrong methods of meeting the Communist menace can and do undermine our civil and spiritual liberties. The whipping up of hysterical fears and the irresponsible attacks upon individuals who

are not given an adequate opportunity to defend themselves - procedures that have occurred in recent years - must be condemned as un-American and dangerous.

We further express our conviction that the McCarran-Walter Act should be promptly amended to correct its present discriminatory provisions.

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42nd Council

April 1953

New York, N. Y.

REQUESTING PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION TO STUDY COMBATING  
COMMUNISM WITHOUT SUBVERTING CIVIL LIBERTY

We recognize the continuing danger to America and world freedom and, above all, to religious freedom, from the forces of Communism. Constant vigilance is needed to guard against these dangers. We support efforts to guard our liberties against subversion, through proper governmental agencies and due process of law. Yet we recognize that wrong methods of meeting the Communist menace can and do undermine our civil and spiritual liberties. The whipping up of hysterical fears and the irresponsible attack upon individuals who are not given an adequate opportunity to defend themselves -- procedures that have occurred in recent years -- must be condemned as un-American and dangerous.

In the spirit of the resolution based upon the recommendation of the President about civil and religious freedom and adopted by this Convention on Tuesday, April 21, 1953, we recommend that the President of the United States be respectfully requested to appoint a Presidential Commission of outstanding citizens representative of the broadest possible cross-section of American life to study the best ways of protecting our nation from Communist danger without at the same time subverting our traditional American freedom; and that this Commission be charged with the responsibility of recommending such safeguards it may deem necessary in the conduct of lawful investigations by national and state legislative bodies.

\* \* \* \* \*

JUDAISM and INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM

Judaism teaches that liberty stems inalienably from God, and that the soul is the divine element in man which cannot be interfered with by other men or governments of men. Deep respect for the right of conscience inheres in Jewish reverence for the human personality. The right to express or keep private the dictates of his conscience, and to give utterance to honest differences among men, is part of the Jewish tradition: "These and those are the words of the Living God." In the conviction that these principles of Judaism are equally relevant to the contemporary scene, and because we believe that the preservation of democracy in the United States rests in large part upon preservation of the American principles of civil liberties and civil rights, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, at this Biennial Assembly, hereby declares these basic principles:

The most significant trend in the area of civil liberties is the steady encroachment upon our freedoms by certain elements in Government. The legitimate and necessary requirements of protecting ourselves from communist infiltration and espionage have been grossly exploited by some to justify certain governmental procedures which corrode freedom of speech and of conscience under the claim that these must yield to the larger security of the nation. The need for a calm, steady, and positive program to insure the triumph of democracy over communism has given way to a pathological fear of communism which inhibits the thinking of some political leaders and colors the judgment of many citizens. We oppose any effort, legislative or otherwise, which would make criminal the expression of opinion, no matter how controversial. We must not hark back to the days of the Alien and Sedition Laws which the people repudiated 150 years ago. The anomaly of the concept that the State can preserve its security while it weakens individual freedom seems to have been lost upon us. Seven centuries of travail, blood, and sacrifice, from Magna Carta to the Atlantic Charter, hang in the balance.

We have tended to proscribe every person and organization at any time pro-Soviet, including many of the most effective present opponents of communism, and regardless of whether former attitudes now condemned were at the time consistent with our national policy. Those loyalty-security procedures which deny confrontation and thus encourage false witness; the type of congressional investigation which in contravention of constitutional liberties tries individuals for their beliefs; the public condemnation by the Attorney General of organizations without previous hearings; these must not become accepted techniques of government.

We deny the validity of the proposition that our government can make itself more secure by denying justice to any man. Absolute security for the State is possible of achievement only in a totalitarian regime and is unattainable in a democracy. There can be no freedom without some measure of risk. In the current demand for absolute security, we must not utilize the totalitarian practices of the enemies of democracy, thus destroying the human and spiritual values which are the mark of civilized men.

Irked by the constitutional inhibition against self-incrimination, some Congressional investigators are calling upon schools, colleges and other institutions to deny the right to work to those who would seek refuge in the charter of our liberties. The University is being attacked because of the presence on its faculty of persons claimed to be politically undesirable. The unfortunate result is that the campus and class rooms in a number of our institutions are ceasing to be places where the youth of America may learn the spiritual values of dissent and nonconformity.

Within the framework of the National Community Relations Advisory Council we have taken our position with respect to the usurpation of power by Congressional investigating committees, and have made suggestions for curbing their excesses.

We protest the irresponsible use of political informers by our law enforcement agencies. We deplore the view that citizens should be encouraged to inform against fellow citizens with respect to their opinions and political associations.

We would defend all constitutional privileges and immunities without regard to the guilt or innocence of those who invoke them. In our view, the preservation of these rights is of greater significance to our way of life than any benefit our law enforcement agencies can derive from curtailment or suspension of these rights.

We abhor the test oath and its loyalty oath derivations. As did our forefathers before us, we reject the notion that the techniques of the Inquisition, the High Commission and the Star Chamber are to have acceptance by us in any form.

We favor the vitalization of the Civil Rights Section in the Department of Justice by whatever legislative and administrative procedures are necessary. We believe that the preservation of civil rights and civil liberties is a function of government equal in importance to the prosecution of subversive offenses.

There are heartening signs of increased awareness of the need to reverse current assaults on fundamental liberties. Yet the fever of suspicion and fear, which has impaired our country's prestige throughout the world, has not yet abated. We know that the price of civil liberties is eternal vigilance. Liberty cannot be stored away, even for a day.

Therefore:

1. We re-affirm the recommendation, adopted at our 42nd Biennial Assembly, that the President of the United States be requested to appoint a Commission of outstanding citizens, representatives of the broadest possible cross-section of American life, to study the best ways of protecting our nation from totalitarian danger without subverting our traditional American freedoms.



2. We urge the Rabbis and leaders of our congregations to join forthrightly in the struggle to safeguard civil liberties and to speak out with dignity and with courage for their preservation. The Jewish ethic supports, indeed is the spiritual source of these liberties. As teachers and adherents of Judaism, we are, by our religious faith, committed to defend them for the benefit of all men.
3. We urge the appointment of congregational Social Action Committees to study the application of ethical principles to the problems of civil liberties, and to consider ways of resisting all efforts to enjoin upon us conformity of thought.
4. We urge our national Commission on Social Action to seek the cooperation of all groups which share our concern for the maintenance of American liberties. Our political and religious faiths are both bound up with the preservation of our liberties; as Americans and as Jews we must cooperate with those who would defend them.



I. NATIONAL ISSUES

E. Miscellaneous

21st Council

January 1909

Philadelphia, Pa.

DEPRECATING PUBLICATIONS DETRIMENTAL TO  
PUBLIC MORALS

BE IT RESOLVED, That we vigorously deprecate the publications of such details of trials as are a menace to public morals, and also that we ask all public spirited persons to refuse support to those Journals, that in the daily publishing of this and other most objectionable and sensational material, do ignore their high privilege, and

That we oppose this evil in practical ways and especially in the line of developing public opinion to appreciate its danger. We earnestly appeal to editors to aid us in this effort.

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21st Council

January 1909

Philadelphia, Pa.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The evil results of Child Labor, unrestricted and undefined by law and conscience, are becoming more and more wide spread and deplorable,

WHEREAS, Various branches, of our modern industrial system are ruthlessly using up and destroying child energy and possibilities with woeful results for the future,

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations place itself on record as heartily sympathizing with the aims and efforts of the National Child Labor Committee to bring about such legislation as will safe-guard the God given rights of the child, be it furthermore

RESOLVED, That this body send the National Child Labor Committee, now assembled in annual convention in the city of Chicago, a telegram conveying an expression of our interest in its deliberations and our prayers for increasing success in its efforts.

ADVOCATING UNIFORM MARRIAGE, DIVORCE AND DESERTION LAWS

WHEREAS, The safety and preservation of humanity's ideals are dependent upon the sanctity of the home which is created through marriage, and

WHEREAS, The laws of the several states are at wide variance in their provisions for marriage, and

WHEREAS, The divorce laws of the several states are at equally wide variance, and

WHEREAS, The desertion laws of each state are limited in their jurisdiction, be it

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations advocate the enactment of uniform Marriage, Divorce and Desertion Laws, and that proper steps be taken by the Union in aid of their enactment.

ARCHIVES

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PETITIONING FOR RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS

WHEREAS, All nations participating in the recent war except the United States have declared amnesty for their political prisoners and

WHEREAS, There linger still in our Federal prisons some political offenders by whose immediate release from prison the interest of mercy and humanity can best be served, be it

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in convention assembled petition the President of the United States to release as many of these political offenders from prison as possible at once.

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## URGING ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL

We recognize that medical care is unavailable to many rural communities and that in large metropolitan centers the cost of medical care has become prohibitive to large masses of people. We urge Government help, so that adequate medical care would be available to all at a cost within the reach of all.

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40th Council

November 1948

Boston, Mass.

## URGING ELIMINATION OF LABOR AND MANAGEMENT ABUSES

We rejoice in the gains that labor has made in the past generation and hope that they will be retained. We urge that abuses in labor and management will be remedied.

We are greatly disturbed by the rise in the cost of living, and hope that remedies against inflation will speedily be found.

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42nd Council

April 1953

New York, N. Y.

DENOUNCING IRRESPONSIBLE ATTACKS ON LOYALTY OF  
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

WHEREAS, The foundations of American democracy have been buttressed by the historic loyalty of the great body of our public school teachers, and our society has benefited greatly through our traditional practices of freedom of inquiry and thought in all the educational disciplines,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in convention assembled denounces irresponsible attacks on our public school systems by exaggerating the small number of subversive teachers out of all proportion to the true facts, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That, while boards of education should not employ or retain in our public schools Communist or subversive teachers, misuse of investigative procedures should not be countenanced.

Whether conducted by legislative committees or school boards, investigations in our public schools should be conducted in a spirit of fair play, solely as a search for the truth and without abuse of the constitutional rights of the witnesses.

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Adopted by the Board of Trustees      November 1958      New York, N. Y.

#### COMMENDATING SOUTHERN RABBIS AND CONGREGATIONS

Many rabbis and Reform congregations in the South have reacted to the trials and heart-rending conflicts of the struggle for human equality in their area with courage and with fortitude. They have spoken bravely their convictions and ours.

Their words and deeds are precious to us, and we record our sense of pride in their strength of faith. In the face of threats and violence, they continue to adhere to the teachings of Judaism in word and deed. May God grant them vigor and continued courage.

\* \* \* \* \*

45th Biennial

November 1959

Miami Beach, Fla.

#### OPPOSING CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

We believe it to be the task of the Jew to bring our great spiritual and ethical heritage to bear upon the moral problems of contemporary society. One such problem, which challenges all who seek to apply God's will in the affairs of men, is the practice of capital punishment. We believe that in the light of modern scientific knowledge and concepts of humanity, the resort to or continuation of capital punishment either by a state or by the national government is no longer morally justifiable.

We believe there is no crime for which the taking of human life by society is justified, and that it is the obligation of society to evolve other methods in dealing with crime. We pledge ourselves to join with like-minded Americans in trying to prevent crimes by removal of its causes, and to foster modern methods of rehabilitation of the wrongdoer in the spirit of the Jewish tradition of tshuva (repentance).

We believe, further, that the practice of capital punishment serves no practical purpose. Experience in several states and nations and demonstrated that capital punishment is not effective as a deterrent to crime. Moreover, we believe that this practice debases our entire penal system and brutalizes the human spirit.

We appeal to our congregants and to our co-religionists, and to all who cherish God's mercy and love to join in efforts to eliminate this practice which lies as a stain upon civilization and our religious conscience.



II. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

15th Council

December 1896

Louisville, Ky.

FAVORING INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

And be it further resolved that the Executive Board promulgate through the Jewish Press or in such other ways as they may deem expedient the information thus received by them.

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations declares itself heartily and enthusiastically in favor of international arbitration and that the Secretary be instructed to inform the Association for the promotion of International Arbitration of this resolution.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES  
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20th Council

January 1907

Atlanta, Ga.

URGING AID FOR KINGSTON, JAMAICA

RESOLVED, That we deeply sympathize with the stricken people of Kingston, Jamaica, and hereby authorize the Board of Delegates on Civil Rights to issue an appeal for immediate assistance asking for contributions to be sent at once to the Chairman of the Board, Hon. Simon Wolf, at Washington.

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22nd Council

January 1911

New York, N. Y.

URGING TERMINATION OF U. S. TREATY WITH RUSSIA

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this Council, speaking not as a representative of Jews, but as a body of citizens having at heart the preservation of the honor of the Nation, joining in generous emulation with all other citizens to elevate its moral and political standards, and to stimulate an abiding consciousness

of its ideal mission among the nations of the earth, that the President of the United States, the Department of State and Congress be respectfully and earnestly urged to take immediate measures, in conformity with the express terms of the treaties now existing between the United States and Russia, and in accordance with the law of nations, to terminate such treaties; to the end that if treaty relations are to exist between the two nations, it shall be upon such conditions and guarantees only, as shall be consonant with the dignity of the American people.

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24th Council

January 1915

Chicago, Ill.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES  
APPROVING PRESIDENT'S EXPRESSED DESIRE FOR PEACE

RESOLVED, That the delegates in this convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations assembled heartily approve the earnest desire for speedy peace so eloquently expressed in the message of the President of the United States addressed to each of the belligerent countries, and hope that his services then tendered to bring about peace may be soon availed of.

\* \* \* \* \*

29th Council

January 1925

St. Louis, Mo.

URGING U. S. ADHERENCE TO WORLD COURT AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO PREVENT WAR

(Wording re-drafted by Ex. Board, U.A.H.C.)

WHEREAS, The Great War with its appalling loss and impairment of lives and its wholesale destruction of the world's resources is arousing right-minded men and women the world over to the need of understanding and of mastering the causes of war and of uniting their counsel and effort for the prevention of future wars; and

WHEREAS, It is becoming more and more realized that the best way of preventing war is by promoting international understanding through education and by creating concrete instrumentalities for peace; now therefore be it



RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in convention assembled in the City of St. Louis join with other religious denominations of our country in petitioning the United States Government to endorse and adhere to the Permanent Court of International Justice known as the World Court; and in petitioning the President of the United States to take steps toward inviting international cooperation in a drastic reduction of armaments and control of traffic in arms; and be it further

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this convention that, in order actually and permanently to prevent war, the nations of the World must resolve to look upon war as a crime against humanity and against International Law, and we therefore petition our Government to take Council with other nations on ways and means of bringing about the outlawry of war; and finally be it

RESOLVED, That we recommend to the various congregations which we represent that special instruction be given to the children of our religious schools on the causes of international friction, and also of those principles of life and conduct, both personal and national, taught by the sages and prophets of Israel, that emphasize our common humanity and make for peace and understanding; and we further recommend the appointment by each of our congregations of a Standing Committee on International Justice and Peace, whose function it shall be to assist in the creation and strengthening of a public opinion in behalf of peace and to represent the congregation in all community efforts for the promotion of peace.

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30th Council

January 1927

Cleveland, Ohio

APPROVING PRINCIPLES OF ARBITRATION WITH RESPECT TO MEXICO  
ADOPTED BY THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABBIS

RESOLVED, That this Convention approves the principles of arbitration with respect to the Mexico dispute as apparently adopted by the Foreign Relations Committee of the United States Senate and accepted by the Department of State.

\* \* \* \* \*

ENDORISING PACIFIC SETTLEMENT OF  
INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

Apprehending that competitive military and naval preparations presage war among civilized nations in opposition to the spirit of the Kellogg Peace Pact, signed and ratified by our Government and other nations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this XXXII Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in convention here assembled, endorses the outlawry of war and the pacific settlement of all international disputes.

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URGING RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL OF ADHERENCE TO  
STATUTE OF WORLD COURT

WHEREAS, More than a year ago, the President of the United States and the Secretary of State of the United States signed the protocol of adherence and amendment to the Statute of the World Court, be it

RESOLVED, By the Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in accordance with the Jewish ideals of Peace, that the Senate of the United States be urged to ratify said protocol of adherence and amendment to the Statute of the World Court.

\* \* \* \* \*

APPROVING ADHERENCE OF THE UNITED STATES  
TO THE WORLD COURT

WHEREAS, The development of just and peaceful relations between nations is one of the objectives of this organization; and

WHEREAS, The World Court is one of the outstanding agencies for

the just and peaceful settlement of certain classes of international disputes; and

WHEREAS, The Senate of the United States, as long ago as January 27, 1926, voted for our adherence to the Court, if five conditions were met; and

WHEREAS, These conditions have been fully met, in the judgment of the Department of State and of such authoritative bodies as the American Bar Association by the three treaties or protocols which have already been signed by the United States and which, when ratified, will complete our adherence; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the 33rd Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations earnestly urges the Senate of the United States to ratify the three pending World treaties, without conditions of any sort, at the earliest practicable time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution shall be sent to the presiding officer of the Senate with the request that he have it read into the Congressional Record.

ARCHIVES

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34th Council

March 1935

Washington, D.C.

SUPPORTING AGENCIES OF PEACE AND URGING NON-INVOLVEMENT  
IN CASE OF WAR

The Thirty-fourth Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations wishes to reiterate its belief in peace and its prayer that mankind may soon learn the way to avoid war. It is not because our historic and present convictions need re-emphasis. It was our prophets who first envisioned the ideal of peace. And throughout the ages Israel has loved peace and pursued it.

But we feel that the World is again rife with the hatreds and the fears that lead to armed conflict. The intensification of national loyalties to the point of frenzy, the numerous ills of people tempting their rulers to liquidate them in war, the ever accelerating pace of armament on sea and land, the policy of economic isolation, the general disregard for covenants and for the instrumentalities of peace, all these alarm us, and make us fearful of the future.

We petition the President of the United States to espouse two policies in our own national relation to this crisis:

First, that we lend our support to the agencies of peace, that we continue to advocate international disarmament; and, above

all, that we adhere to a policy of good neighborliness with all the world.

Secondly, that the President and the Congress of the United States bend their earnest consideration toward the determination of the method by which, in case war should again descend upon the world, we ourselves may avoid embroilment in it.

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34th Council

March 1935

Washington, D. C.

SUPPORTING PROGRAM OF UNIVERSITY IN EXILE

The University in Exile, the Committee for Displaced German Scholars, and the Committee for Exiled German Physicians have all rendered signal services to men of learning in distress and to the cause of science. The Union of American Hebrew Congregations commends their efforts and urges support of their program.

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37th Council

April 1941

Detroit, Mich.

SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES

RESOLVED, We profoundly sympathize with the victims both Jewish and non-Jewish of the ravages of war and with all who are denied their elemental human rights by aggressor nations;

We affirm our unalterable devotion to democratic principles, and with all faith and confidence look forward to the day when such democratic ideals will surely triumph over the totalitarian forces of darkness;

As loyal Americans we pledge whole-hearted support to the government of the United States in defense of our nation and of our American institutions.

\* \* \* \* \*

REAFFIRMING DEMOCRACY AS OPPOSED TO TOTALITARIANISM

WHEREAS, Judaism emphasizes the supreme worth of the individual and exalts the democratic way of life, we again affirm our opposition to all forms of government which deny in theory or practice these religious humanitarian ideals, the common heritage of our civilization. True religion must therefore denounce Communism, Nazism and Fascism.

We pledge our whole-hearted support to our government in its efforts to protect our Nation and its ideals from internal or external attack, and firmly assert our eagerness to share with all fellow Americans, whatever sacrifices we shall be called upon to make.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
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ARCHIVES

37th Council

April 1941

Detroit, Mich.

URGING AID TO BRITAIN

This 37th Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations reaffirms the immemorial faith of Israel in the prophetic ideals of justice, freedom and righteousness. It rejoices in those expressions of American democracy that give evidence of its solidarity with the British people in their heroic struggle.

Religion, patriotism and democracy are indivisible in our land. It has always been the privilege and duty of the House of Israel to defend these principles, which are the bastion of freedom. Here the House of Israel should be in the vanguard.

WE, THEREFORE, Urge the members of the organizations that constitute the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and its affiliates to give maximum support to all those who rise in defense of embattled democracy. It should be the determination of America to destroy the evil menace that now threatens to engulf the world. A representative of the interfaith section of the British Aid Committee has just addressed us on behalf of civilian aid to Britain, and has informed us that in several communities Jewish groups have combined to raise funds for mobile kitchens, children's homes, and hospital supplies. This Convention, therefore, urges the respective communities here represented to join with our fellow Jews in supporting these laudable objectives.

## URGING CONGREGATIONS TO MAXIMUM EFFORT FOR VICTORY

BE IT RESOLVED, That we highly commend the high level of patriotism manifested by our congregations in furthering the war effort in every possible way in upholding the hands of our President in the present crisis, and that we urge them to further increase such efforts and sacrifices to the limit so that an early victory may be achieved.

39th Council

March 1946

Cincinnati, Ohio

URGING SUPPORT OF UNITED NATIONS, OUTLAWING ATOMIC WARFARE,  
AND EMANCIPATION OF ALL PEOPLES

Since the last Council of the Union we have witnessed the defeat of the Axis powers through the courage and sacrifice of our fighting men and women, the remarkable efficiency of people nurtured under democratic rule, and the magnificent cooperation of the Allied Nations. The same comradeship which characterized the war effort of the Allies, we hope will be utilized to fashion a just and enduring peace. An important milestone in the achievement of that goal was the formation of the United Nations Organization. We are aware that it has imperfections, but we believe that these can be overcome as nations recognize more and more their duty to submit to the moral law, to pool their resources and to limit their sovereignty where necessary. The success of the UNO as an instrument to outlaw wars, to establish justice, to promote good will and the welfare of all rests, ultimately, on the spiritual regeneration of the individual through the power of religion. In such regeneration, Judaism has its part to play.

The release and utilization of atomic energy with its colossal power for destruction or advancement has rendered more urgent the application of the prophetic principle of justice and love to the relations between nations and to all the phases of domestic endeavor. We strongly urge that our country, a leader in the making of the atomic bomb, will take the initiative in outlawing it as a weapon of warfare and in utilizing atomic energy for the advancement of human welfare.

Believing in the equality of all races before God, we urge the education and full emancipation of all peoples without exception.

And we look with special concern upon the exploitation of many millions in Asia and Africa and urge their admission as equals into the councils of nations.

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39th Council

March 1946

Cincinnati, Ohio

#### URGING AID FOR VICTIMS OF WAR

Because we worship a universal God we are concerned with the suffering and injustices of all men everywhere. We are mindful of the large number of displaced persons and suffering peoples of many nations and of all faiths in the war-torn lands, and urge the extension and the intensification of the work of UNRRA and the other agencies engaged in the sacred task of bringing relief to them. We likewise urge full support for President Truman's appeal to feed the hungry people of the world.

We cannot adequately express our sense of profound grief over the calamity and tragedy which has annihilated some six million European Jews, and which has now been verified by documents presented to an international court. We are appreciative of the sympathies of men of good will everywhere. We commend generous, unstinted and unprecedented support of the hundred-million-dollar campaign of the United Jewish Appeal, a heroic undertaking to alleviate in some measure the woes of the surviving Jews of Europe.

We urge again that the British White Paper be abrogated forthwith, to the end that Palestine may be open to unrestricted Jewish immigration and be made available for the settlement of the Jewish homeless on the land.

The religious principle that divine retribution comes to men and nations who flagrantly violate the laws of God by aggressions and tyrannies is exemplified in the plight of the defeated peoples of the Axis nations. Judaism teaches that atonement characterized by sincere repentance and good deeds will be followed by forgiveness of God and man.

We commend our Christian brethren, speaking recently through the World Council of Protestant Churches meeting in Geneva, for their forthright condemnation of anti-Semitism, and point out that the tragic experiences of the past decade reveal the evil harvest of ill-will among men.

Because of our faith in God and in the basic decency of human beings, His creatures all, we face the future, in this dark hour

of history, with courage and confidence, certain that our Messianic hopes of justice and peace for all will be realized, and we pray that the day may speedily come when "men shall learn war no more" and "every man shall sit under his vine and fig tree and none shall make him afraid."

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40th Council

November 1948

Boston, Mass.

#### STATEMENT OF VIEWS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE

We cannot but be dismayed by the speculations about another war and the ready acceptance of its inevitability among large masses of people. We voice the fervent prayer to Almighty God to give to us the courage, the vision, the understanding and the humanity to avert another world war, the prospects of which are terrifying. We believe that international problems lend themselves to adjudication through conference, conciliation and compromise. It is our conviction that these problems can be solved through the agency of a strengthened United Nations.

We believe that the United Nations should be expanded and its powers increased, so that in time it will become the nucleus of a world government.

We rejoice in the fact that our country is helping the hungry people of Europe with food and is giving them the tools and materials needed to rebuild their shattered industries. We approve the Marshall Plan.

We hail the effort of the United Nations to create an international Bill of Rights which will guarantee the basic freedoms to all men.

We welcome international cooperation on the intellectual level through UNESCO, and hope that its work will become increasingly effective.

We endorse the Baruch Plan for the international control of atomic energy, and welcome our country's assent to it as the first evidence of the yielding of national sovereignty basic to any international government.

We note with great sympathy the demand of colonial peoples for independence and for democratic rights and hope that they will achieve this objective.

We trust that amicable relations will be reestablished between our



country and Soviet Russia. The differences in ideologies between these two great powers cannot be settled by war. We are confident that no ideology can endure which does not rest on the essential freedoms of men, and which does not extend social justice, equality and brotherhood to all.

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41st Council

November 1950

Cleveland, Ohio

APPROVING AND RECOMMENDING RATIFICATION OF  
GENOCIDE CONVENTION

RESOLVED, That the General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations approve the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and recommends and urges that the United States Senate now ratify this Convention;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Assembly recommend to each of the constituent congregations that the Rabbis and members of such congregations urge ratification of the Convention upon their respective Senatorial representatives;

FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of the first resolving clause of this resolution, together with an appropriate letter of transmittal from the Union, be forwarded to the President of the United States and to the presiding officer and each of the members of the Senate of the United States.

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42nd Council

April 1953

New York, N. Y.

URGING RATIFICATION OF THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION

WHEREAS, The Convention for the Prevention and Punishment of the crime of Genocide outlaws the destruction of national, religious, racial and ethnic groups and has been unanimously approved by the General Assembly of the United Nations and already ratified by forty-one national parliaments, which represent a total population of one billion human beings;

WHEREAS, The Special Sub-Committee of the United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recommended ratification of the Convention,

WHEREAS, The Convention represents the highest ideals of prophetic religion and human brotherhood and undertakes to prevent human tragedies and destruction such as have occurred throughout history and brought great sufferings to our generation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, assembled at its 42nd Biennial Convention in New York City on April, 1953,

Hereby urges the President of the United States and the Senate to hasten ratification of the Genocide Convention so that the United States of America may uphold the American tradition of moral leadership in the world.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, to the presiding officer of the Senate, and to the Chairmen of those Senate Committees charged with the consideration of this subject.

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43rd General Assembly                      February 1955                      Los Angeles, Calif.

#### STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES ON ACHIEVING A JUST PEACE

Adopted Upon Recommendation of the Commission  
On Social Action

The quest for peace has been stamped indelibly upon the character of Judaism. Our prayers and hopes have always been directed toward the achievement of peace for all humanity. At a time when war was the normal relationship among the nations of the world, the prophets proclaimed the vision of universal peace. From its earliest beginnings, Judaism has praised the peacemaker, condemned the war-monger; indeed, the early rabbis forbade Jews to traffic in the instruments of war. The majestic dream of a time when nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more, has been an essential element of Judaism's heritage to all mankind.

As heirs of the great religious tradition which conceives of its ultimate goal as the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth, we rededicate ourselves to the goal of universal peace. We confront the modern threats to peace, symbolized by the awesome power of thermo-nuclear weapons, with deep anxiety and concern but with

undimmed faith in the even mightier power of God and man.

Only when there is a universal will for peace, can peace be achieved. In a world divided into two mutually hostile spheres, tensions inevitably develop, poisoning the very atmosphere of international relations. We recognize that aggressive Communism is primarily responsible for this division and for many of the tensions threatening world peace.

That Communist imperialism is the chief threat to world peace does not, however, absolve the U. S. from the heavy responsibility of constantly examining our own policies and conduct to make sure that we do not, in discouragement and frustration, weaken in our determination to build a peaceful world. As Americans and as Jews, drawing upon our religious experience and insights, we must urge our nation to intensify its positive efforts and to repudiate certain tendencies which in themselves constitute impediments to the achievement of world peace.

Accordingly, we urge

1. That the United Nations be made in deed as well as in word the cornerstone of U. S. foreign policy. There is little doubt that the prestige and influence of the United Nations have been weakened by a tendency to by-pass it, or to fail to make full use of its machinery in crucial matters. Our task must be to strengthen the United Nations. We believe that such strengthening requires the United Nations to become truly a world organization which it cannot be until it becomes a council of all nations. We darken the hope of world peace when we neglect the United Nations, disparage its values, and especially when we give vent to irresponsible threats to withdraw from this assembly of nations.

2. That the United States not yield to despair in the search for universal peace. We must not fail to pursue every path, to consider open-mindedly every proposal, that might lead in the direction of easing world tension. We take pride in U. S. sponsorship of the uniquely generous Baruch Plan for control of atomic armaments. But we are aware that this Plan has been dead for years. We warmly commend President Eisenhower for his imaginative proposal for an atomic pool for peace-time purposes, and for our country's contribution of fissionable materials for peaceful uses. The United States should similarly seize the initiative in the quest for universal disarmament. Until a workable, realistic program of world disarmament is in force, however, the United States must continue, in concert with other free nations, to maintain its military strength, including its atomic stock-piles. It is an ironic truth that these stock-piles may be the most effective present deterrent to a world war.

3. That consideration of a preventive war as a possible instrument of American policy be rejected as immoral and a blasphemy both of religion and of democracy. We heartily commend President Eisenhower for repeatedly repudiating such an alternative, and for courageously urging patience and maturity in the pursuit of peace, but we are

disturbed by the continued prevalence in places of high authority of a state of mind which seems to regard a preventive war as a solution to our difficulties. Religious groups especially have a profound obligation to inspire in the hearts of men the conviction that the achievement of peace is man's greatest challenge in our time.

4. That the fundamental contest between democracy and tyranny be recognized as a long-range struggle, which may continue for generations, and which will be won ultimately not by armaments but in the loyalties and minds of men. We can win this contest only by demonstrating constantly and conclusively that democracy is dynamic, that it spurns colonialism and racism, that it can and will address itself to the crushing problems of world poverty. In this connection, we welcome the achievements of the Point Four and U. N. Technical Assistance programs and urge that they be greatly expanded. We urge the speediest possible implementation of President Eisenhower's plan for peace-time use of atomic energy through an international pool.

5. That the processes of free discussion in the United States be revitalized. Too many Americans, distressed by the painful complexities of international affairs, have left thinking on these questions to their leaders. We are also disturbed by the tendency to stifle free discussion and healthy controversy by resort to loose charges and pressure toward conformity. The result of these tendencies is that the very processes of international diplomacy, negotiation, and compromise have been held up to contempt; honest criticism of existing policies and even advocacy of co-existence have frequently been equated with pro-Communism. These are among the factors contributing to the weakening of U.S. prestige throughout the world and to the grave impairment of morale in the U. S. diplomatic service, thus increasing the difficulties of achieving a genuine peace.

To revitalize public discussion and debate of crucial international issues, we urge the convening of an international conference of religious, educational, scientific, and civic leaders from all nations to discuss the threats to peace and to consider ways of strengthening the fabric of universal harmony.

6. That religious bodies of all denominations intensify their efforts to instill in the hearts of man a renewed dedication to peace. Only the ringing cry of faith can cross the barriers and curtains now separating man from man. The voice of religion, the message of salvation through righteousness and justice, must be heard above the clatter of the weapons of war. Re-affirming our belief in the sovereignty of God over all humanity, we pledge ourselves to join with all men of conscience in seeking a way to achieve mankind's opportunity for redemption: a world at peace.

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URGING U.S. GOVERNMENT AND U.N. TO HELP ESTABLISH  
PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

We express the gratitude of all Jewry for the generous aid which the State of Israel has received from the government of the United States (and the government of Canada) in the form of grants-in-aid, loans, and many other gifts, services and considerations.

However, there is still no peace in the Middle East. The Arab League is still conducting its economic boycott designed to destroy Israel. Individual Arab States still refuse to make peace treaties. Egypt still continues her blockade of the Suez Canal.

We regard the continued Arab hostility toward the State of Israel as a menace to the peace of the world and as a threat to the security and wholesome growth of Israel.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That in the light of these facts we call upon the government of the United States, acting through and with the United Nations if it deems it necessary, to exercise its most earnest efforts to bring about a permanent peace between the Arab States and Israel; that pending the establishment of such a peace, this government do nothing to jeopardize the government of Israel nor do anything which might weaken its position as the bulwark of democracy in the Near East.

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44th General Assembly

April-May 1957

Toronto, Canada

COMMENDING EFFORTS AND PLEDGING SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE

One of the most sacred of our Jewish religious teachings is the messianic vision of universal peace. In this nuclear age, this vision has become a sheer necessity if total world suicide is to be averted. With undimmed faith in man's capacity to establish God's Kingdom on earth, we re-dedicate ourselves to the pursuit of lasting peace with justice. Accordingly, we:

1. Commend the efforts of the United States, Canada and other governments toward the achievement of universal, enforceable disarmament, and we urge that all such efforts be carried forward with the utmost urgency, imagination, and flexibility.

2. Call upon our congregations and social action units to continue earnest study of the problems threatening world peace. Such active concern is incumbent upon all who seek to translate religious principles into action.

3. Urge the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to join hands with other religious groups in strengthening the United Nations and advancing the ideals of universal peace.

Believing that the achievement of an enduring and just peace is the paramount moral issue on the agenda of mankind, we pledge our energies and our resources to this indispensable religious task.

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Board of Trustees

November 1958

New York, N. Y.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES  
COMMENDING RABBI EISENDRATH'S PEACE MISSION AND PLEDGING  
SUPPORT TO ACHIEVE PEACE

1. Judaism first gave the world the vision of a Messianic age of peace, when nations shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Religious bodies are confronted with a testing challenge in this nuclear age in which mankind is faced with the awesome threat of total annihilation. We believe that our religious faith must impel us to act with all possible vigor and urgency to avert the threat to human survival which now shadows the children of God. We pledge ourselves to the unremitting task of seeking and striving and laboring for a world of peace with justice.
2. We warmly commend our President, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, for the idealism which motivated him to spend himself tirelessly and selflessly in seeking out the moral resources for peace in the religions of the world. We pray that this significant initiative by Rabbi Eisendrath will lead to closer cooperation and strengthened vigilance on the part of the religious leaders of the world in the pursuit of an enduring and just peace.
3. We heartily endorse Rabbi Eisendrath's plea for a world convocation of religious leaders to address themselves to the moral implications of the nuclear age and to relate the religious conscience of all mankind to such grave questions as disarmament, nuclear tests, radiation. We urge Rabbi Eisendrath and the Commission on Social Action to follow through on the preliminary explorations which have already been made and to initiate intensive consultations with other religious bodies of the world.
4. We reaffirm our position, in which we are associated with many

other religious bodies, that our Government intensify every possible effort toward the achievement of universal, enforceable disarmament, and that the United States continue its efforts on a program for peace with the utmost urgency, resourcefulness, and flexibility. We call upon the Government of the United States to explore every possible means of ending nuclear tests as one of many aids in the mobilization of the religious resources of the world.

5. Committed to the belief that the winning of an enduring and just peace is the transcendent moral issue of the time, we call upon our congregations and social action committees to develop programs of study and action which will lead to advancement of this imperishable spiritual ideal.

"The Work of righteousness shall be peace;  
and the effect of righteousness shall be  
quietness and confidence forever."  
(Isaiah 32:17)

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES  
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45th General Assembly      November 1959      Miami Beach, Fla.

OPPOSING RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING

It is recommended that the delegates to this General Assembly speak out on the great issues of war and peace and express out of the depths of their prophetic Jewish tradition and social conscience our unequivocal opposition to a resumption of nuclear testing and appeal for the most consideration of a comprehensive plan for a complete discontinuance of nuclear testing, and likewise for the most serious consideration of a comprehensive plan for complete and total disarmament. We recommend that this Union join with all other religious groups in rallying the massive spiritual resources of mankind in pursuit of enduring peace based upon Justice for all.

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## REAFFIRMING DEDICATION TO PEACE

As President Eisenhower has eloquently reaffirmed, the United States of America is deeply committed to the goals of enforceable disarmament and the reduction of the crushing burden of armaments which weighs so heavily upon us and other nations of the world.

We warmly commend President Eisenhower for his bold initiative in arranging personal exchanges with heads of states toward the end of achieving a lasting world peace.

We, therefore, reaffirm the following Resolution passed by the 44th General Assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations meeting in Toronto, Canada, in 1957:

"One of the most sacred of our Jewish religious teachings is the messianic vision of universal peace. In this nuclear age, this vision has become a sheer necessity if total world suicide is to be averted. With undimmed faith in man's capacity to establish God's Kingdom on earth, we rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of lasting peace with justice. Accordingly, we:

- a. "Commend the efforts of the United States, Canada, and other governments toward the achievement of universal, enforceable disarmament, and we urge that all such efforts be carried forward with the utmost urgency, imagination, and flexibility.
- b. "Call upon our congregations and social action units to continue earnest study of the problems threatening world peace. Such active concern is incumbent upon all who seek to translate religious principles into action.
- c. "Urge the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to join hands with other religious groups in strengthening the United Nations and advancing the ideals of universal peace.

"Believing that the achievement of an enduring and just peace is the paramount moral issue on the agenda of mankind, we pledge our energies and our resources to this indispensable task."



III. JEWISH ISSUES ABROAD

1st Council

July 1874

Cleveland, Ohio

COMMENDING HON. F. B. PEIXOTTO FOR AIDING ROUMANIAN JEWS

RESOLVED, That this Convention heartily approves and unanimously indorses the labor and efforts of our esteemed co-religionist, Hon. B. F. Peixotto, in behalf of our oppressed brethren of Roumania, and that his mission is one that should invoke the sympathy and material aid of all Jewish congregations and associations.

\* \* \* \* \*

7th Council

July 1881

Chicago, Ill.

COMMENDING U. S. CONSUL FOR AIDING JEWS IN MOROCCO

That the efforts of our government for the amelioration of the unfortunate condition of our brethren in Morocco deserve earnest and grateful recognition, and have proved a means of help on many occasions of fear and suffering.

That we also recognize the eminent services rendered to our co-religionists by the Hon. Felix A. Mathews, United States Consul at Tangier and Morocco. His vigorous and manly remonstrances to the Emperor against the cruelties which have been perpetrated on our co-religionists in those lands, and his unwavering sympathies and kindness toward them, conspicuous in seasons of trouble, have earned for him our sincere thanks and the commendation of all friends of humanity.

\* \* \* \* \*

7th Council

July 1881

Chicago, Ill.

CO-OPERATING WITH "ALLIANCE ISRAELITE UNIVERSELLE" IN CARING FOR JEWISH EMIGRANTS TO U.S.A.

RESOLVED, That the Board of Delegates enter into correspondence with the "Alliance Israelite Universelle," to co-operate with the Union

of American Hebrew Congregations for the purpose of receiving and caring for Jewish emigrants who may be sent to this country by the Alliance, and also to secure from that body financial aid for that purpose.

\* \* \* \* \*

7th Council

July 1881

Chicago, Ill.

SOLICITING FUNDS FOR "ALLIANCE ISRAELITE UNIVERSELLE"

That this Council being heartily in accord with all efforts for the advancement of the moral and social conditions of our brethren in lands where they are still denied the rights of civil and religious liberty, or where unfriendly legislation and popular prejudice dominate against them, hereby authorizes the Board of Delegates to issue an annual appeal to the Congregations and brethren of our Union, soliciting such pecuniary aid as will afford practical testimony of the continued cooperation of American Israelites in the great work instituted by the Alliance Israelite Universelle.

That the Board of Delegates may, in their judgment, reserve such portion of the collection as they may deem advisable to be expended in this country to further these objects.

\* \* \* \* \*

7th Council

July 1881

Chicago, Ill.

COMMENDING KING OF SPAIN FOR OFFERING ASYLUM TO  
RUSSIAN JEWISH REFUGEES

WHEREAS, The recent action of his Majesty, the King of Spain in inviting to his dominions the Israelites whom Russian barbarism has compelled to seek shelter and safety in other climes, claims our thankful recognition. The land from which cruel persecution drove forth our fathers nearly four centuries ago now welcomes back their children, and endeavors to atone for the wrongs of the past by the humanity and justice which should be the crowning features of modern civilization; be it therefore,

RESOLVED, That this noble act of historical significance deserves

our profound and grateful acknowledgment, and that a communication expressive of this sentiment be addressed to his Excellency, the Minister of Spain, resident at Washington, for transmission to his government.

\* \* \* \* \*

12th Council

July 1891

Baltimore, Md.

REQUESTING PRESIDENTIAL APPEAL TO RUSSIAN EMPEROR TO  
INVESTIGATE ALLEGED CRUELITIES TO RUSSIAN JEWS

RESOLVED, That the Senate of the United States have heard with great concern the statements in the newspapers in regard to the alleged persecutions of the Jews in Russia, and also in reference to the cruel treatment of State prisoners in Siberia and other places of imprisonment in the dominions of the Czar.

And the President of the United States is hereby requested to appeal on the ground of humanity to the Emperor of Russia to take measures to inquire into these alleged wrongs and cruelties to the subjects of Russia, and to place them in a condition of freedom and equal rights.

\* \* \* \* \*

12th Council

July 1891

Baltimore, Md.

URGING U. S. GOVERNMENT PROTEST TO RUSSIA AGAINST  
PERSECUTION OF ITS JEWISH CITIZENS

WHEREAS, It is reported through the public press by telegraph that the Russian Government has ordered to be enforced the edicts of 1882 against the Jews, which edicts have hitherto been held in abeyance, under which the Jews dwelling in Russia must henceforth reside in certain towns only, and will not be permitted to own land or hire it for agricultural purposes, or to hold shares in or work mines, or to enter the army or practice medicine or law, or to be an engineer or enter any of the learned professions, and exclude them from holding positions under the Government; and whereas such action will turn from their homes in hundreds of towns and villages large numbers of Jewish families; therefore,

RESOLVED, That the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, earnestly protest in the name of humanity against such inhuman and barbarous acts. That the President be requested to transmit through our representatives in Russia respectful but earnest protest against such proposed action by the Russian Government.

This was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Mr. Hitt, the Chairman, reported that having had the same under consideration, report the following substitute therefore, and recommend its adoption:

RESOLVED, That the President be requested to communicate to the House of Representatives, if not incompatible with the public interest, any information in his possession concerning the enforcement of prospective edicts against the Jews in Russia, recently ordered as reported in the public press; and whether any American citizens have, because of their religion, been ordered to be expelled from Russia, or forbidden the exercise of the ordinary privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
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12th Council

July 1891

Baltimore, Md.

RE: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' HEARING ON RUSSIAN  
PERSECUTION OF JEWS

RESOLVED, That the members of the House of Representatives of the United States have heard with profound sorrow, and with feelings akin to horror, the reports of the persecution of the Jews in Russia, reflecting the barbarism of past ages, disgracing humanity and impeding the progress of civilization.

RESOLVED, That our sorrow is intensified by the fact that such occurrences should happen in a country which has been and now is the firm friend of the United States, and in a nation that clothed itself with glory, not long since, by the emancipation of its serfs and by its defense of helpless Christians from the oppression of the Turks.

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Secretary of State, with a request that he send it to the American minister at St. Petersburg, and that said minister be directed to present the same to His Imperial Majesty Alexander III, Czar of all the Russians.

This was referred to the same committee, who after consideration reported to the House of Representatives the following as a

other, and they shall enjoy to that effect the same security and protection as natives of the country wherein they reside, and

WHEREAS, The Government of Russia refused from time to time to recognize or honor the passports of the United States issued to and held by American citizens, on account that such citizens were of Jewish faith, and refused to permit the holders of such passports to sojourn or enter in the territory or the domain of the Russian government, solely on account of and because of their said religious faith, and

WHEREAS, After the government of Russia persistently refused to vise American passports held by law-abiding citizens, placing its refusal upon the grounds that the holders of such passports were of Jewish faith, the House of Representatives of the United States of America, on the 21st day of April 1904, adopted a resolution in the following words:

RESOLVED, That the President be requested to renew negotiations with the governments of countries where discrimination is made between American citizens on the ground of religious faith or belief to secure by treaty or otherwise uniformity of treatment and protection to American citizens holding passports duly issued by the authorities of the United States, in order that all American citizens shall have equal freedom of travel and sojourn in those countries, without regard to race, creed, or religious faith, and

WHEREAS, After the passage of such resolutions, and in the year One Thousand Nine Hundred and Four this government duly communicated such resolution to the Russian government, and then sought to secure from the government of Russia such action as would end the discrimination made by Russia between different classes of American citizens on account of their religious faith, in the honoring of American passports, to the end that all American citizens holding our passports should have equal freedom of travel and sojourn without regard to race, creed, or religious faith; and

WHEREAS, The government of Russia has persistently continued up to the present time to refuse to vise, recognize, or honor passports presented to its authorities issued by the American government to American citizens on the ground that the holders thereof were of the Jewish faith,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the House of Representatives and the Senate of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, that the President of the United States be and is hereby directed to renew negotiations with the government of Russia to secure by treaty or otherwise, uniformity of treatment and protection to American citizens holding passports duly issued by the authorities of the United States, in order that all American citizens shall have equal freedom of travel and sojourn in such country without regard to race, creed, or religious faith, and to demand and insist that the honoring or vise of passports when duly issued and held by citizens of the United States shall not be withheld because or on account of the race, creed, or religious faith of their holders; and be it further

substitute therefore, found in Miscellaneous Documents No. 103, 51st Congress, 2d session:

RESOLVED, That the members of the House of Representatives of the United States have heard with profound sorrow the reports of the sufferings of the Jews in Russia, and this sorrow is intensified by the fact that such occurrences should happen in a country which is and long has been the friend of the United States, which emancipated millions of its people from serfdom, and which defended helpless Christians in the East from persecutions for their religion, and we earnestly hope that the humane and enlightened spirit then so strikingly shown by His Imperial Majesty will now be manifested in checking and mitigating the severe measures directed against men of the Jewish religion.

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AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

13th Council

December 1892

Washington, D. C.

RECOMMENDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF ORPHAN ASYLUM IN  
SAFED, PALESTINE

WHEREAS, The Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has heard the statements made by Mrs. Dr. Bliden, of Safed, Palestine; in regard to the creation and support of a Jewish Orphan Asylum in Safed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Council heartily commends the noble efforts of Mrs. Bliden, and recommends to the congregations' members of the Union to do whatever is possible in aid of this worthy and deserving charity.

\* \* \* \* \*

21st Council

January 1909

Philadelphia, Pa.

URGING U.S. GOVERNMENT EITHER TO OBTAIN GUARANTEE THAT RUSSIA WILL  
HONOR PASSPORTS OF AMERICAN JEWISH CITIZENS OR TERMINATE TREATY WITH RUSSIA

WHEREAS, In the Treaty between the United States of America and the Government of Russia it is provided that the inhabitants of the respective countries shall mutually have the liberty of entering, sojourning and residing in all parts of the respective territories of each

RESOLVED, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the Russian Government with such demand and insistence, and that upon the failure of the Russian Government to abide by its treaty obligations with the Government of the United States, and to comply with said demand, the President of the United States shall give notice under and pursuant to Article XII of the Treaty between the United States and the Emperor of all the Russias, ratified on the eleventh day of May in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-three, of the intention of the United States to arrest the operation of said treaty, and thereupon pursuant to such official notification and at the period fixed after giving such official notification under said Article XII, the said treaty and convention between the United States and Russia shall be deemed ended and determined.

\* \* \* \* \*

26th Council

May 1919

Boston, Mass.

URGING JEWS OF AMERICA TO JOIN IN JEWISH RIGHTS AND  
REHABILITATION MOVEMENT

WHEREAS, We learn almost daily from many and reliable sources of the harrowing sufferings and of the cruel persecution of the Jews of Eastern Europe, and particularly of Poland, where between four and five millions of Jews live, despite the sacrifice equally with all others of untold lives and treasures on the part of our co-religionists in behalf of these countries of their birth or adoption, and

WHEREAS, We learn with keen disappointment and deep sorrow that the new rulers of these countries, countries which themselves have become recently emancipated by the victory of the Allies, have not afforded their Jewish population the protection which they demanded for themselves, or granted them the same civil and religious rights which with the assistance of the Jews they won for themselves, and

WHEREAS, We believe that the inspiration of the sacrifice of blood and treasure on the part of America and the Allies has come from the determination to win the war in behalf of humanity and justice, of liberty and democracy, and

WHEREAS, It has been abundantly demonstrated the world over, that notwithstanding the discriminations against them in some lands, the Jews have served their respective countries with at least the same measure of devotion as have other groups and have made sacrifices no less than other peoples in behalf of their countries,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the representatives of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Council assembled, call upon all the Jews of America and the rest of the world to join us in a Jewish Rights and Rehabilitation Movement, whose purpose it shall be to achieve the following results:

To make a united effort to secure for the Jews equal civil, religious, political and economic rights and opportunities in all the countries of the world, specifically demanding that the governments of the nations be held responsible for the discrimination against, and persecution of, our brethren in their respective lands.

To urge upon all enlightened governments that the right to pass restrictive laws against immigration is conditioned upon the discharge of the moral obligation to endeavor to secure for all groups alike the right to life and liberty in the lands of their birth and adoption. We affirm that justice and humanity demand that unless these inalienable rights be secured for the inhabitants of all lands, restrictive laws would amount to a condemnation of helpless peoples to live under inhuman and barbarous conditions.

To assist by financial and other means in the rehabilitation of the Jews in Poland, Roumania, Palestine and wherever, on account of Anti-Semitism, they have been the object of attack and have not received their proportionate share of help, and meanwhile

To call upon the national organizations now engaged in collecting funds for the Jewish War Sufferers, namely, the American Jewish Relief Committee, the Central Relief Committee and the People's Relief Committee, to continue to raise funds adequate to relieve the Jews of Poland, Roumania, Palestine and elsewhere from their immediate distress and sufferings and to pledge our material and moral support in securing such funds.

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26th Council

May 1919

Boston, Mass.

RE-AFFIRMING ALLEGIANCE TO IDEALS OF ISAAC MAYER WISE  
ON CENTENARY OF HIS BIRTH

In this year of the Centenary of the birth of Isaac M. Wise, founder of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, we commemorate the event by reaffirming our allegiance to the principles and ideals that inspired his life and created this Union.

While recognizing that the Jews were bound together in the far past by political ties, and in all historic time by common cultural aims,



we believe that all these factors are incidental to, and a means towards, the dominant purpose to which Israel has been consciously dedicated from the beginning, namely, the development of the Jewish religion.

In accordance with the spirit of our whole history we declare that it is imperative for the welfare of Jews everywhere as a great religious community with a universal message for humanity that Israel dedicate itself not to any aspiration for the revival of a Jewish nationality or the foundation of a Jewish State, but to the faithful and consistent fulfillment of its religious mission in the world. We, therefore, do not seek for Israel any national homeland, it being our conviction that Israel is at home in every free country and should be at home in all lands. Nor do we approve of the demand for specifically Jewish national rights in any land, but we demand equal rights for all inhabitants of all lands regardless of race or creed.

We reaffirm the declaration made by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations twenty-one years ago that we are Jews in religion and Americans in nationality.

We reassert the ideal to which this Union owes its being and to which it has been steadfastly devoted, namely, the promotion of the Mission of Israel, to serve mankind through the propagation of the great moral and religious principles first enunciated by our prophets.

We restate our conviction that the congregation is the Unit of Jewish life, and that the united congregations constitute the historic organized expression of our world purpose.

We urge upon all Jews to support the constructive program which this Union seeks to carry out; that is the creation of educational agencies and of practical measures by which the lofty principles here proclaimed shall be made known and become effective throughout the world.

\* \* \* \* \*

26th Council

May 1919

Boston, Mass.

PROTESTING POLISH CRUELTY TO JEWS AND URGING DELEGATES OF  
NATIONS IN PARIS TO END ATROCITIES

The Twenty-sixth Biennial Session of the Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, comprising 200 congregations in 177 cities in the United States and Canada, is stirred to expressions of horror at the injustices and cruelties to which Jews in Eastern Europe, notably in Poland, are being subjected. In lands where they have dwelt for generations and for which they made every

sacrifice in blood and treasure throughout the war they are still made victims of countless outrages.

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations enters a solemn protest against these persecutions. In the name of justice and humanity - the ideals for which America entered the war and in the vindication of which America and the Allies have triumphed - we call upon the delegates of the nations assembled in Paris to take steps immediately to put an end to these outrages and to insist that enforceable provision be made for economic, civic and religious equality for all people and for their protection everywhere.

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27th Council

May 1921

Buffalo, N. Y.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

URGING U. S. GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO  
STOP PERSECUTION OF JEWS IN EAST EUROPE

The indescribable sufferings of millions of our co-religionists abroad, particularly in Eastern Europe, have brought profound grief to all civilization. While much of this is due to horrible economic conditions caused by the war, in which our co-religionists patriotically did more than their full share for their respective countries, much is caused by lawlessness, individual and governmental, and by brutal religious intolerance, particularly in the countries which formerly belonged to the Russian Empire. Often these persecutions have been carried on in the face of guarantees of equal civil, religious and political rights, regardless of race and creed, for the insertion of which in peace treaties our beloved country was primarily responsible.

We urge that our Government continue to be untiring in its efforts to remove these blots upon civilization, and recommend that this resolution be brought to the attention of the governmental authorities by the Board of Delegates on Civil Rights.

\* \* \* \* \*

RECORDING APPRECIATION FOR RATIFICATION BY LEAGUE OF  
NATIONS OF PALESTINE MANDATE

This Convention of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations notes with satisfaction the recognition which the League of Nations, by the ratification of the Palestine Mandate, has accorded the project of opening up Palestine for the free settlement of the Jews under the mandatory of Great Britain.

This Convention also records with appreciation the fact that the United States, through a resolution, adopted unanimously by both Houses of Congress and signed by the President, has joined the other great governments of the world in lending its moral support to this undertaking.

Conscious of the spiritual significance for the further development of Judaism implied in the establishment of a vigorous Jewish community in Palestine, and realizing the importance of the migration of many Jews from the lands of Eastern Europe to Palestine, this Convention urges all Israel to participate in the laudable efforts now under way for the reconstruction of that land.

The decision of the Committee was that the Resolution be not concurred in, the same being evidenced by a vote of 12 to 4.

It was pointed out that assurances had been given in arranging for this Convention that the work would be confined to that of effecting a religious revival in the United States, and that all controversial questions be avoided. Your Committee, accordingly, recommends that no action be taken at this conference on the question involved in the resolution; and this recommendation had the unanimous approval of the Committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

SYMPATHIZING WITH JEWS OF EAST EUROPE AND ENDORSING  
EFFORTS FOR THEIR IMPROVED CONDITION

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, assembled in its Thirtieth Council, expresses its sincere sympathy with those Jewish brethren and others in Central and Eastern Europe who are suffering from the economic and political consequences

of the War, and they particularly feel keenly for the minorities of all faiths in Roumania and other countries, who have not been accorded their rights which were guaranteed to them under the treaties which have been made, and some of whom have not been protected from cruel attacks by mobs,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Union heartily endorses the humanitarian efforts for spiritual and educational development and for agricultural settlements in Russia, Poland and Palestine, in order to give to those of our Jewish brethren who so desire a new start in life and who, either on account of economic conditions or because of persecution, or in order to satisfy their spiritual longing, are desirous and anxious to settle upon the soil.

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33rd Council

June 1933

Chicago, Ill.

SYMPATHIZING WITH GERMAN JEWS AND EXPRESSING CONFIDENCE  
IN U. S. GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, the National Federation of Temple Brotherhoods in convention assembled hereby RESOLVE:

Our hearts go out in this hour of trial to our Jewish brethren who are undergoing unspeakable suffering in Germany. The physical suffering inflicted on them, the deprivation of their means of livelihood, the humiliation of being reduced to an inferior civic and social status, their exclusion from participation in the common life of the country in which they have taken a notable part for generations; all these outrages evoke our deepest sympathy.

We are highly gratified that many Christians of this and other countries, and numerous secular and professional bodies have nobly expressed their condemnation of the unjust actions of the constituted authorities of Germany. We are grateful that the representatives in both Houses of Congress have voiced the indignation of the American people regardless of race or creed. We are confident that right-minded men the world over will not remain silent until the wrongs perpetrated upon the defenseless and law-abiding Jewish population of Germany shall have been righted.

We hope, too, that the whole German people will before long realize that the continuation of these manifestations of distorted nationalism, isolating a valuable element of her own people, alienates the friendship of all civilized nations.

We have confidence that the President of the United States and all those in charge of the Government of the United States, prompted not only by natural feelings of humanity, but carrying out the traditional policies of our country to manifest an interest in the protection of human rights throughout the world, will do their utmost to see that the specific pledges to protect religious minorities made by the Government of Germany to the United States and the Allied powers in 1919 will be kept.

We feel sure our unfortunate brethren will find comfort in their devotion to the Jewish faith which, surviving many tragic trials in the past, will surely survive this great tragedy and will provide those suffering oppression with consolation in their present tribulation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State and the presiding officers of both Houses of Congress.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
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ARCHIVES

34th Council

March 1935

Washington, D. C.

RECOGNIZING EFFORTS OF JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN GROUPS IN  
SEEKING TO STOP GERMAN OPPRESSION OF JEWS

At the last Biennial Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations resolutions were adopted calling attention to the unspeakable suffering of our Jewish brethren in Germany and other lands. We expressed our recognition of the faithful efforts of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and the B'nai B'rith in behalf of the afflicted and our appreciation of the sympathy and support of Christians and Christian organizations in many parts of the world. The Jews who make up the constituency of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations have not contented themselves with words, but in the intervening two years have zealously carried out their pledge of aid and succor to alleviate the suffering of the oppressed. But we must recur to the subject and avow our steadfast purpose again; for the crisis continues and our efforts must continue.

We commend the manifestations of a helpful official attitude and renew our grateful acknowledgment of Jewish and non-Jewish support. As loyal Americans we are mindful of the problems which confront those who must determine our national policy; but we call upon the enlightened public of a right-thinking, right-feeling world to condemn and continue to combat, as a blight upon civilization, the barbarity that seeks to deny to worthy Jews--worthymen and women and helpless children--all that is cherished in life.

And we reaffirm our pledge of unremitting individual and collective effort and aid until this great world wrong shall be righted.

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34th Council

March 1935

Washington, D. C.

COMMENDING PRO-FALASHA COMMITTEE IN HELPING  
ABYSSINIAN JEWS

Until a few years ago, the Falashas, Jews of Abyssinia, were under the impression that they constituted the only group in the world observing Jewish laws. Under the guidance of Dr. Jacques Faitlovitch, chairman of the Pro-Falasha Committee, modern Jewish schools and the education abroad of several youthful Falashas are helping these isolated Jews to maintain their faith under great difficulties and to give them a perspective as to their relationship to the larger Jewish world; therefore be it RESOLVED that the Thirty-fourth Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in convention assembled, appreciating the endeavors of the Pro-Falasha Committee, wish to commend its pioneer work and to endorse its program.

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34th Council

March 1935

Washington, D. C.

ENDORSING EFFORTS OF JEWISH AGENCY IN UPBUILDING PALESTINE

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Council assembled expresses its satisfaction with the efforts made and the progress achieved by the Jewish Agency in the upbuilding of Palestine.

Whatever may be our diversities of opinion as to the place of Palestine in Jewish life, we all rejoice that such of our co-religionists as are fleeing from lands of oppression are finding a haven and a new home in the land which has played so large a part in Jewish historical experience.

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URGING UAHC CONSTITUENCY TO GIVE FINANCIAL AND MORAL  
SUPPORT TO PALESTINE

RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Council assembled express its satisfaction with the progress made by the Jewish Agency in the upbuilding of Palestine. We see the hand of Providence in the opening of the Gates of Palestine for the Jewish people at a time when a large portion of Jewry is so desperately in need of a friendly shelter and a home where a spiritual, cultural center may be developed in accordance with Jewish ideals. The time has now come for all Jews, irrespective of ideological differences, to unite in the activities leading to the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, and we urge our constituency to give their financial and moral support to the work of rebuilding Palestine.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
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ARCHIVES

EXPRESSING GRIEF AT GERMAN DESECRATION OF JEWISH SANCTUARIES  
NOVEMBER 10, 1938

WHEREAS, On the Tenth of November, 1938 and on the following days, organized bands in Germany descended upon synagogues dedicated to the worship of God for centuries, violated or destroyed them, and desecrated the Sacred Scrolls:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the 36th Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations meeting in Cincinnati, expresses its profound grief and lamentation upon the savage destruction of the Jewish sanctuaries and Houses of God by the barbarous forces of Nazi Germany.

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URGING PRESIDENT AND DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO CORRECT ACT OF NORTH  
AFRICAN HIGH COMMISSIONER DEPRIVING JEWS OF FRENCH CITIZENSHIP

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, assembled in the midst of this war for human freedom and inspired by the principles of democracy which have made America the champion of freedom for all men, views with anxiety the pronouncement recently made by the High Commissioner for North Africa, General Henri Giraud, which deprives the Jews of Algiers of the citizenship rights guaranteed them by the Cremieux Law of 1870.

We urge the President of the United States and the Department of State to use their good offices to correct this act in order to restore to the Jews of Algiers their former status as citizens of France.

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Board of Trustees

October 1957

New York, N. Y.

URGING U. S. GOVERNMENT TO TAKE LEAD IN BRINGING  
PEACE TO MID-EAST

Our concern in regard to our brethren in Israel has not grown less since the resolution adopted by this Board, and by the Union on previous occasions. We are deeply disturbed at the intensified armaments race in the Middle East, the arming of Syria and Egypt by the Soviet Union and its satellites and the policy of our own country of sending arms to other Arab lands while continuing a long-term embargo on arms to Israel.

We welcome the assurances made at various times by the President and the Secretary of State, that Israel will not be permitted to become a sacrifice to the hostility of its neighbors or the scheming malevolence of Russia, but we express the hope that those assurances will be made more explicit and clearer. It is still our opinion that peace will come to the Middle East only under these conditions.

We send fraternal greetings to Israel and our endless admiration for its courage, its freedom, and its brotherhood in welcoming in one hundred thousand homeless and often helpless Jews this very year. The welfare of Israel must not be impeded and hampered by Arab boycotts, by blackmail upon American firms threatened by Arab



nations against doing business in Israel. All this is contrary to the Armistice Agreement, the Charter of the United Nations, and the peace and security of the whole world.

We would like to express the hope that our own government will now take the lead in removing the causes of discord and the threats of war in this troubled part of the world, and to moving on a broad base toward genuine peace and justice.

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45th General Assembly

November 1959

Miami Beach, Fla.

REQUESTING STATE DEPARTMENT PROTEST TO SOVIET UNION  
AGAINST DENIAL OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ITS JEWISH CITIZENS

WHEREAS, The Union of American Hebrew Congregations has traditionally expressed its deep concern for the welfare of our brethren throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, The Jewry of the Soviet Union represents the second largest Jewish population in the world, and

WHEREAS, Reports filtering out of the Soviet Union are such as to indicate the unequal status of Jews in the U.S.S.R., and

WHEREAS, Jewish culture and tradition have been curtailed or forbidden,

WHEREAS, According to the statements of Premier Khrushchev, the Jews of the Soviet Union have served faithfully in the defense and welfare of their country,

Therefore, Be it resolved that this body request our State Department to protest through proper channels the denial of equal rights and privileges to Jews in the Soviet Union.

IV. JEWISH ISSUES IN AMERICA

3rd Council

July 1876

Washington, D. C.

APPOINTING COMMITTEE TO PRESENT TO STATE LEGISLATURES  
PETITION FOR ENACTMENT OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE LAWS

RESOLVED, That this Council appoint a committee, whose duty it shall be, to draw up, circulate, obtain signatures to, and have presented in proper form to the Legislatures of the various States, a petition asking the enactment of laws, where such exist not enabling the Israelite to keep and observe the Sabbath, according to the dictates of his conscience, and exempting him who keeps the Sabbath, from such Sundays laws and regulations, which may interfere with his legitimate business.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES  
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6th Council

July 1879

New York, N. Y.

INSTRUCTING COMMITTEE ON CIVIL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS TO AID  
IN REMOVING OPPRESSING SUNDAY LAWS

RESOLVED, That this Council recognizes with much gratification all efforts to repeal unjust and oppressive Sunday laws in behalf of those who observe the seventh day as a Sabbath.

RESOLVED, That the Committee on Civil and Religious Rights be instructed by this Council to aid and assist, as far as it is in their power, in any legitimate effort to remove such Sunday laws, as they exist in several States, as encroachments upon the civil and religious rights of American citizens, who, in accordance to the dictates of their conscience, observe the seventh day as a Sabbath.

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## FOSTERING AGRICULTURE AMONG JEWISH YOUTH

WHEREAS, It has become necessary to further the material interests of our co-religionists in the United States, to foster, follow and preserve agriculture and its kindred branches; and,

WHEREAS, The happiness, prosperity and independence of our rising generation are greatly dependent upon this issue; and,

WHEREAS, Some of the charitable institutions, directly under our control, such as orphan asylums, could at once be made to form a nucleus best adapted to reach this end; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a committee be appointed by this body to confer with the officers of the various institutions under their charge for the purpose of discussing the feasibility of placing such institutions upon farming lands, so as to be enabled to instill into our youth a course of theoretical and practical knowledge of farming and a desire for agricultural pursuits.

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## ENCOURAGING AGRICULTURE AMONG JEWS

WHEREAS, In our opinion the true emancipation of Jews consists in the greater infusion of the spirit of manhood and self-dependence, which can best be done by encouraging the large masses of Israelites dwelling in Eastern and Southern Europe to become farmers, agriculturists and mechanics; and,

WHEREAS, The millions of acres still lying waste in this country await the toil of the thrifty and industrious husbandman and laborer to yield the untold wealth sleeping in the undeveloped soil, and to millions of Jews the independence of the farmer would be the true redemption from bondage; and,

WHEREAS, This country, our brethren all over the world, and society at large would be greatly benefited by the enlistment of willing hands and stout hearts in an enterprise that would largely affect the great social questions of modern times; and,

WHEREAS, Such work could be carried out with facility in cooperation

with our sister societies in Europe, the Alliance Israelite and their German branches, the Board of English Deputies and others; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Delegates on Civil and Religious Rights be and they are hereby instructed to take into consideration the feasibility and practicability of our active co-operation with our sister societies in Europe, for the purpose of encouraging agriculture among Jews, and the settlement in this country of such as are willing and able to devote themselves to that pursuit on the lands in the West and South,

RESOLVED, That the Executive Board be and they are hereby authorized to accept donations of land and funds and hold them in trust for the purpose of encouraging agricultural pursuits among Israelites.

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13th Council

December 1892

Washington, D. C.

REFUTING ANTI-SEMITIC ACCUSATIONS

WHEREAS, The anti-Semitic agitation, underterred by the verdict of the enlightened, still continues its unjust hostility in many lands, be it

RESOLVED, That besides the discussion of the topics recommended, we solicit the co-operation of all American Jews in sympathy with the cause, both individuals as well as societies, orders and congregations to render the participation of the Jews in the Religious Congress of the Columbian World's Exposition, a matter of international importance, to help to state clearly and emphatically the great aim and the objects of Judaism before the entire world and to substantially refute all the slanderous charges made against it through the successive ages by its declared foes; be it also

RESOLVED, That men of renowned, world-wide scholarship and impartiality of the Christian denomination and Jewish scholars of note be requested and authorized, at the expense of the American Jews, to write and publish exhaustive treatises on the anti-Semitic charges, in particular in regard to the blood accusations, which fill so dark a chapter in Jewish and Christian history, stating the facts and giving the result of their examination in decisive and clear terms. Furthermore be it

RESOLVED, That these men be invited to come and to review publicly these charges before the enlightened representatives of the great religions of the world, in order to elicit the approval and assent

of the world and silence slander in the name of humanity forever, at least within the pale of civilization.

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15th Council

December 1896

Louisville, Ky.

INSTRUCTING BOARD OF DELEGATES TO REPORT ON  
LEGISLATION AFFECTING JEWS

RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this Council that the Board of Delegates on Civil and Religious Rights report to the Executive Board as soon as possible, and regularly from time to time, any contemplated legislation by State or National Government affecting the rights of the Jews.

And further that the said Board of Delegates keep the Executive Board at all times advised as to the status of such proposed legislation.

\* \* \* \* \*

18th Council

January 1903

St. Louis, Mo.

SUPPORTING WORK OF INDUSTRIAL REMOVAL OFFICE

WHEREAS, The Union of American Hebrew Congregations is organized to further all Jewish interests looking to the betterment of the material, mental and moral conditions of Jews, and

WHEREAS, The congestion and overcrowding of almost 350,000 Jews within a radius of one square mile in the lower East Side of New York City tends to breed immorality and crime, and to perpetuate an undesirable exclusiveness, and

WHEREAS, About 50,000 Jewish immigrants arrive annually at the Port of New York, 70 per cent of them remaining in New York and by settling in the already overcrowded and congested district, making bad conditions still worse, and

WHEREAS, The Industrial Removal Office recognizing the necessity of immediate action in combating this growing evil, has taken upon

itself the work of alleviating the unfortunate condition, by finding positions for such as are worthy of assistance, and removing them to cities where they can become self-supporting, and

WHEREAS, This movement has resulted in bringing hundreds of applicants to the office daily, who beg to be given a chance to be sent South or West where their hopes of becoming self-supporting and Americanized, may in a measure be realized, and

WHEREAS, It is impossible to meet the requests of more than one-third of the applicants because of the dearth of requisitions from the various Jewish communities of the United States,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, recognizing the important services rendered by the Industrial Removal Office in furthering this movement of first importance to the Jews of the United States, grant it our hearty moral support and co-operation, and urge each and every delegate present to lend his aid and co-operation in his individual and representative capacity to the promotion of this movement.

AMERICAN JEWISH  
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19th Council

January 1905

Chicago, Ill.

REQUESTING AUTHORITIES TO PREVENT ANTI-JEWISH ASSAULTS

WHEREAS, The daily papers report that unprovoked assaults by ruffians upon old Jewish men, upon women, and even upon children, are of frequent occurrence in the streets of certain cities, notably of Chicago and New York, assaults that in two cases which were recently reported in Chicago resulted in murder, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this Council deeply deploras that such occurrences are possible in American cities, and requests the utmost activity on the part of the proper authorities to prevent their reoccurrence, and in case of their inability to do so, that prompt and severe legal penalties be imposed upon the perpetrators of such outrages. Further be it

RESOLVED, That the attention of the Board of Delegates on Civil Rights be called to this matter and that they be instructed to take such action as may be proper in the premises.

\* \* \* \* \*

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT POLICY TO DIVERT IMMIGRATION TO THE SOUTH AND WEST

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations gathered in convention at Atlanta, Ga., herewith resolves that it is in hearty accord with the policy of our government to divert immigration from the congested seaports of the East to the South and West.

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27th Council

May 1921

Buffalo, N. Y.

APPROVING PRESS CONDEMNATION OF ANTI-JEWISH PREJUDICE

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations in convention assembled views with gratification the unanimity with which the public press of the United States has condemned recent anti-Jewish aspersions, and representative fellow citizens and clergy of all denominations have protested against these un-American attempts to stir up prejudice and hatred.

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36th Council

January 1939

Cincinnati, Ohio

APPROVING APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE TO FORMULATE AND EXECUTE PLANS FOR RELIGIOUS LIFE OF JEWISH IMMIGRANTS

RESOLVED, That the Convention approves the action of the Executive Committee in appointing a Committee to formulate and carry out plans for the religious life of those refugees of our faith who have recently come to our shores.

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APPEALING TO UNITED NATIONS, U. S. GOVERNMENT AND GREAT  
BRITAIN TO PROVIDE HAVEN FOR GERMAN JEWISH REFUGEES

Of all the sufferers at the hands of the enemies of civilization, Jews have met with the cruelest fate. Hundreds of thousands of them, innocent men, women and children, have already been massacred, and millions more face imminent annihilation.

We have been profoundly moved by the universal outpouring of sympathy for our martyrs, and by the moral indignation which has been expressed by all the free peoples of the earth. We are deeply grateful for these evidences of compassion and human solidarity. But much more must be done, and quickly done, if the survivors of Nazi persecution are to be saved.

Prompt and resolute action alone can save them. We appeal to the United Nations to act. Havens of refuge must be opened forthwith in neighboring neutral countries where at least temporary asylum can be given to these people who are otherwise doomed. We appeal especially to our own government to facilitate the immigration into our country of as many refugees as possible, consistent with a broad and humanitarian interpretation of our laws, and to Great Britain, in whose empire, and more especially, in Palestine where, under the terms of the mandate, the Jewish people has been building a national home, room should be found for these unfortunate ones.

We urge that the Conference on Refugees announced by our government should be held without delay, and that heroic measures be speedily adopted to avert the complete extinction of the European Jewish communities.

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States and the Secretary of State, with the request that the copy of it be transmitted to the British Ambassador to the United States.

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Board of Trustees

November 1958

New York, N. Y.

URGING CONGRESS TO ENACT LEGISLATION TO COMBAT  
BOMBINGS OF HOMES, CHURCHES, SYNAGOGUES AND SCHOOLS

We are deeply shocked and outraged by the campaign of bombings and threats being visited upon homes, churches, synagogues, schools and



other institutions in all parts of our country. We condemn this campaign as immoral and contrary to every principle of Judaism and of the democratic process.

At the same time, we have been moved by the calm dignity and magnificent courage with which the rabbis and congregations in Atlanta and Peoria have faced this crisis. We extend to them our full-hearted admiration.

We associate ourselves with the urgent plea made by Rabbi Eisendrath to the President of the United States that he assert clear and vigorous moral leadership to curb the climate of lawlessness in which violence must inevitably breed. Toward this end, we vigorously commend and support our President's proposal that a White House Conference on Law and Equality be convened by President Eisenhower, drawing upon religious, educational, civic, and social welfare leaders of American life to chart a path for peaceful compliance with the law of the land. We call upon the 86th Congress of the United States to place high on the agenda of its forthcoming session the adoption of needed legislation which would authorize Federal law-enforcement officials to investigate and apprehend those guilty of the kinds of outrages which have been visited upon Atlanta, Clinton, Nashville, Peoria and many other communities.

We urge our congregations to defy the efforts of the hate-mongers to intimidate and to stifle the message of our prophetic heritage. Our most eloquent answer to the bombers will be the development in every Reform synagogue of a vital program of social study and action which will translate the ethics of our faith into concrete reality and living truth in each of our communities.

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45th General Assembly

November 1959

Miami Beach, Fla.

APPOINTING COMMITTEE TO STUDY AND SUGGEST PROGRAM FOR SPECIAL  
NEEDS OF OLDER JEWISH PEOPLE

WHEREAS, The highest traditions of Jewish and American life affirm the respect and dignity due to older persons, and

WHEREAS, Our population includes 15,000,000 persons over 65 and 35,000,000 between 45 and 64, who have special needs in the areas of health, housing, recreation, religion, employment and rehabilitation, and

WHEREAS, Our Federal Government is planning the first White House Conference on Aging in January, 1961,

THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in convention assembled,

That a committee be appointed to study the special needs of older Jewish people and suggest means for meeting these needs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That individual member congregations be called upon to develop programs and services for their older members, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a report be forwarded to the White House Conference on Aging indicating our interest and concern in this vital area.



V. SYNAGOGUAL ISSUES

26th Council

May 1919

Boston, Mass.

CREATING SPECIAL DEPARTMENT OF "SYNAGOGUE AND  
SOCIAL SERVICE"

WHEREAS, Judaism by its historical tradition has always been deeply concerned in the social as well as the spiritual welfare of mankind, and

WHEREAS, The synagogue in its earlier stages invariably ministered to the social as well as the religious needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, There is a growing demand that organized religion play a larger and more active part in the daily life of the community,

BE IT RESOLVED, That this Council instruct the Board of Managers of Synagogue and School Extension to create a special department to be known as the "Synagogue and Social Service Department," which shall stimulate the wider use of the synagogue in the service of the community, and which shall advise the synagogues as to the development of social service activities.

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36th Council

January 1939

Cincinnati, Ohio

RECOGNIZING INDIVIDUAL JEWISH RESPONSIBILITY TO  
SUPPORT THE SYNAGOGUE

WHEREAS, The impulse for true social service springs from the basic and cardinal teachings of Judaism, traditionally expressed through and by the Synagogue:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, in Council assembled, recognize that individual Jewish responsibilities include the duty to support the Synagogue and the obligations to uphold its position in the spiritual, cultural, philanthropic and other beneficent activities of Jewish life.

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COMMENDING CONSTITUENT CONGREGATIONS FOR  
WELCOMING JEWISH REFUGEES

Whereas, Traditionally the Synagogue is the center for all Jewish activities, religious, philanthropic, cultural, and communal.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in Council assembled call upon all Jews to give their unstinted support to the Synagogue in all of its activities and thereby increase its influence in Jewish life:

To that end, we commend the action of the constituent congregations of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in their efforts to welcome into our religious fellowship the refugees; and recommend to the consideration of the Executive Board of the Union the continued encouragement of such service to all newcomers religiously inclined to affiliate with us.

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ENCOURAGING FORMATION OF STUDY GROUPS ON POST-WAR PROBLEMS

BE IT RESOLVED, That the member Congregations of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations encourage the formation of study groups on post-war problems in the spirit of religion and humanitarianism.

\* \* \* \* \*

AFFIRMING FREEDOM OF THE PULPIT IN MEMBER CONGREGATIONS

WHEREAS, Since the beginning of Jewish History, the teachers of our faith from the prophets of the Bible to the Rabbi today have regarded the precepts of Judaism as ideals which must be applied directly to the daily life of society, and

WHEREAS, the principle of the freedom of the pulpit is consonant with the essential democracy of our faith as well as of our nation

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS IN CONVENTION ASSEMBLED

That we affirm the inherent right of the Rabbis of our congregations to express freely their views and their interpretations of Jewish doctrines in the light of contemporary life. We proclaim equally the right of the congregant to dissent from the views articulated from the pulpit.

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42nd Council

April 1953

New York, N. Y.

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES  
APPROVING ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR SOCIAL ACTION COMMISSION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGREGATIONAL SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEES

In his final recommendation the President urged that the recently reconstituted Joint Commission of the Union and the Conference on Social Action be granted adequate funds, and urged also that in each local congregation there be established a committee on social action.

Your Committee approves this recommendation of the President in the spirit in which he urged it--that "the worship of God must be transmuted into the work of God."

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42nd Council

April 1953

New York, N. Y.

URGING CONGREGATIONS TO WITHHOLD FACILITIES FOR USE AS PRIVATE SCHOOL IN CIRCUMVENTION OF DECISION ON SEGREGATION

We urge all congregations within our Union to withhold the use of their facilities in circumvention of judgments and orders of the Supreme Court and other Federal Courts and to refrain from any course of conduct which would support instrumentalities of any state or private organizations seeking to frustrate the enforcement of such judgments and orders.

\*COMMENDING CONGREGATIONS WITH SOCIAL ACTION GROUPS

In the light of our determination to realize the principles of social justice and to make concrete application of our prophetic preaching to daily practice,

We commend the nearly two hundred congregations in the Union which have established social action groups and strongly urge all others to join them in creating such groups to the end that all our congregations shall contribute constructively and courageously toward making ours a truly living Judaism.



\* As of 1960, the number of congregations with social action groups is 310.

VI. RELATING TO UAHC STRUCTURE

16th Council

December 1898

Richmond, Va.

APPOINTING A COMMISSION TO COLLECT STATISTICS ON VARIOUS  
JEWISH CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS

RESOLVED, That a commission be appointed to collect statistics of the various Jewish charitable institutions and societies in the United States, and to report the result to the next Council, together with recommendations, looking to a closer co-operation.

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AMERICAN JEWISH  
ARCHIVES

31st Council

February 1929

San Francisco, Cal.

INSTRUCTING EXECUTIVE BOARD TO RE-CREATE COMMITTEE  
OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

RESOLVED, That this Council instruct the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to re-create a Committee of Social Justice, designed not for the solution of specific factional controversies, but for the pronouncement and preservation of the traditionally sympathetic attitude of Judaism toward progressive effort in the realm of industrial, economic and sociological aspects of human relationships;

That the achievement of the ends in view be subserved by fostering through cooperation and financial assistance, whenever and wherever same is deemed fitting and proper, the efforts of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to apply to the solution of modern social problems the lofty idealism of Judaism.

Mr. A. D. Engelsman, Oklahoma City, offered an amendment to the effect that a minimum sum of \$7,500.00 per year be appropriated from the funds of the Union in order to enforce and carry out this resolution. Mr. Engelsman subsequently withdrew this amendment. Rabbi James G. Heller, Cincinnati, offered a substitute to the effect that the Chairman appoint a committee to formulate a resolution on Social Justice that shall duly represent the sentiments of the Council and report the same for action to a subsequent session of this Council. After discussion participated in by A. Leo Weil, Pittsburgh; A. D. Engelsman, Oklahoma City; Rabbi Jacob Nieto, San Francisco; Rabbi James G. Heller, Cincinnati; Rabbi Barnett R.

Brickner, Cleveland; Dr. Samuel H. Goldenson, Pittsburgh; Dr. Joseph Silverman, New York City; Isaac W. Frank, Pittsburgh; Sidney Weil, Cincinnati; Dr. William H. Fineshriber, Philadelphia; Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, New York City; and Ludwig Vogelstein, New York City, the substitute motion was voted on and lost and the original resolution was amended and unanimously adopted as follows, etc.:

Resolution as Adopted

RESOLVED, That this Council instruct the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to re-create a Committee of Social Justice, designed not for the solution of specific factional controversies, but for the pronouncement and preservation of the traditionally sympathetic attitude of Judaism toward those who are struggling for more equitable and just conditions of life in fields of industry, commerce and social relations and toward progressive effort in the realm of industrial, economic and sociological aspects of human relationships, and

That the achievement of the ends in view be subserved by fostering through cooperation and financial assistance, whenever and wherever the same is deemed fitting and proper, the efforts of the Central Conference of American Rabbis to apply to the solution of modern social problems the lofty idealism of Judaism.

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39th Council

March 1946

Cincinnati, Ohio

INSTRUCTING EXECUTIVE BOARD TO ESTABLISH A SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE AND SUGGESTING FULL-TIME DIRECTOR FOR JOINT COMMISSION

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations establish a Social Action Committee to deal with and suggest to our affiliated congregations ways and means of applying and implementing the prophetic teachings of our religion. This Committee should cooperate with the Social Justice Commission of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and serve either separately or jointly in carrying out the imperatives of our faith; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Union suggest the employment of a full-time Director for this joint Commission.

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45th Council

November 1959

Miami Beach, Fla.

EMILY AND KIVIE KAPLAN GIFT FOR WASHINGTON  
SOCIAL ACTION CENTER

With reference to Recommendation VI, the Committee heartily endorses the speedy implementation of our too-long-delayed center of social action in Washington, D. C., which is now made possible by the magnanimous gift for this purpose of Mr. and Mrs. Kivie Kaplan of Temple Israel in Boston.

The Recommendation was approved.



VII. RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

20th Council

January 1907

Atlanta, Ga.

APPOINTING COMMITTEE TO EFFECT COOPERATION BETWEEN BOARD  
OF DELEGATES AND OTHER LIKE-MINDED JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

RESOLVED, This Convention places itself on record, that all privilege to officially represent the Jews of the United States in any public matter affecting all the Jews, must spring from the authority and by the mandate of the various Jewish National organizations, and that no self-constituted committee, notwithstanding the excellence of its membership and however praiseworthy and exalted its objects and purposes, has the right to speak or act except in the name and authority of its own membership.

Rev. Dr. Joseph Silverman moved to amend the resolution so that it read as follows:

"RESOLVED, That this council appoint a Committee of Five to bring about a co-operation between the Board of Delegates of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and any National Jewish Organization or Jewish Committee, whose purpose is similar to that of the Board of Delegates."

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21st Council

January 1909

Philadelphia, Pa.

URGING UNITED EFFORT AMONG NATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, Representatives of various national organizations have set forth "The Work of Israel in America" before the delegates in attendance at the Twenty-first Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, convened in Philadelphia, January 20, 1909.

AND WHEREAS, Most of these organizations have developed since the founding of the Union thirty-five years ago, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That this Assemblage commend to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations the aims and achievements of these various national movements, to the end that the Union cooperate more fully with them, and also that it seeks to promote more effective co-operation among them.

BE IT RESOLVED, That inasmuch as the hospitalities of a common platform have been freely and gladly used to-night by representatives of various national organizations, therefore do we urge upon the Council to make this gathering the impulse for future meetings, at which more ample and extended opportunity shall be afforded for kindred discussions.

WE FURTHERMORE, Recommend that the Executive Board of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in preparing the programs for the Council hereafter, definite time be set aside for a full consideration, in due order, of the work of the several agencies laboring to promote fraternity among our brethren; of those looking to the conservation of our religious interests, of such as aim to spread knowledge and foster Jewish scholarship; of our philanthropic enterprises; of those laboring to promote agriculture, of those engaged in the battle against the great "White Plague"; of those coordinating the work of our women; of those guarding our civic and religious rights, and of such other movements as may from time to time arise.

We respectfully urge this widening of scope of the Council's discussions with the express purpose that thereby practical methods may be derived for harmonizing and unifying all our national undertakings, thus to secure to them the strength that lies in united effort and the force and influence to be exercised in our country through co-operative endeavor in behalf of our common cause.

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29th Council

January 1925

St. Louis, Mo.

EMPOWERING EXECUTIVE BOARD TO INVITE REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER NATIONAL JEWISH CONGREGATIONAL BODIES TO ADVANCE JUDAISM IN USA

WHEREAS, A closer religious fellowship and a practical cooperation among the National Jewish Congregational organizations are eminently desirable for the advancement of Judaism and of Jewish education in the United States, and for co-operation with other National organizations interested essentially in religion and in religious education. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Board of the Union be empowered to invite representatives of the United Synagogue of America, the Union of Jewish Orthodox Congregations, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly of the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada, to meet with a similar Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to effect a Conference of National Jewish Congregational bodies for the furtherance of the above aims.

MOTION TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION  
ON GOOD WILL BETWEEN CHRISTIANS AND JEWS

Representing the sentiment of the Executive Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, I move that the Council refer to its Executive Board for its favorable consideration a contribution of two thousand dollars for the encouragement and support of the National Commission on Good Will between Christians and Jews, as now sponsored by parallel committees of the C.C.A.R. and the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America.

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33rd Council

June 1933

Chicago, Ill.

COMMENDING EFFORTS OF, AND ENDORSING COORDINATION AMONG, OTHER  
JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INTEREST OF GERMAN JEWRY

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, assembled in its Thirty-third Council, held in Chicago, June 18-22, recognize the earnest and tireless efforts that have been exerted by the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, and the B'nai B'rith in behalf of our oppressed brethren in Germany, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Union endorse the steps now being taken to co-ordinate and effect fuller cooperation in the labors of these three organizations in the interests of German Jewry.

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33rd Council

June 1933

Chicago, Ill.

COMMENDING EFFORTS OF AND APPEALING FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO  
JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF OF GERMAN JEWS

WHEREAS, The Joint Distribution Committee is making excellent progress in its drive for the collection of funds for the relief of the Jewish

victims of the present German Government; and

WHEREAS, It is entitled to the cooperation, support and encouragement of every Jewish organization, which has sympathy for our suffering co-religionists; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, its Sisterhoods, and its Brotherhoods congratulate the Officers and Directors and Managers of the Campaign for the splendid organization which the Joint Distribution Committee has created and is maintaining, express their confidence in its efforts, and appeal to every Jew in this country to make every sacrifice possible to contribute to the fund being raised by the Joint Distribution Committee for the relief of the German Jewish sufferers.

34th Council March 1935 Washington, D. C.

ENCOURAGING SUPPORT OF JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE

The tremendous problems facing the Jews of Germany and the rest of Europe, by their supreme importance impress every American Jew. The 1935 drive of the United Jewish Appeal in support of the Joint Distribution Committee and United Palestinian Campaign merits the solemn consideration and sincere support of the American Jewish community; therefore be it RESOLVED, That the Thirty-fourth Council of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in convention assembled mindful of the recrudescence of anti-Semitism and the maladjustments resulting therefrom, approve the efforts of the American Joint Distribution Committee and wish the coming campaign for said purposes a full measure of success.

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42nd General Assembly April 1953 New York, N. Y.

OFFERING TO MEDIATE DISPUTE RE NATIONAL COMMUNITY  
RELATIONS ADVISORY COUNCIL

Affirming, and in order to implement the action of this Assembly on

the President's Message (April 19th, 1953) taken at its meeting on April 21, 1953, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations offers its good services for the purpose of promoting peace and harmony between the NCRAC and the American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'rith, and further offers to help in devising a basis of cooperation among all Jewish community relations agencies.

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43rd General Assembly

February 1955

Los Angeles, Calif.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL AND AUTHORIZING RABBI EISENDRATH'S PARTICIPATION  
WITH PRESIDENTS OF OTHER NATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

In keeping with the spirit expressed by President Eisendrath (February 13th, 1955), this Biennial Assembly reiterates its sense of moral and spiritual solidarity with and tangible support of our brethren in the historic land of Israel; and endorses the action of the Executive Board of October, 1953, repeated by the Administrative Committee in June and October, 1954, authorizing the participation of our President with the presidents of other national Jewish organizations for consultative and advisory purposes with regard to Israel, and to take such action as he may deem proper; a specific action in pursuance of this general decision having been presented at the October, 1954 meeting of the Executive Board and ratified.

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43rd General Assembly

February 1955

Los Angeles, Calif.

PLEDGING SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL COMMUNITY RELATIONS  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

The UAHC, from the time of its conception in the mind of our founder, Isaac Mayer Wise, has identified itself with the totality of Jewish life. Long before there were other agencies defending Jewish rights, our Union had established its Board of Delegates and protected Jewish interests in all areas of life. This has been our position through the years, and it continues to be our position in recognition of the historic solidarity of the whole household of Israel. In pursuance of this traditional position of our Union we encourage our President to represent us in the main current of Jewish

life under procedures to be defined by the Executive Board.

Your Committee concurs in the President's report dealing with the NCRAC. We realize the importance of NCRAC in our country, and in particular our membership in it. Our Executive Board has already approved our participation in the NCRAC, and we note with satisfaction the commendation accorded us in the MacIver Report.

We have always been in the forefront in interfaith work, and it is our duty to continue it. We are happy to welcome in this field the cooperation of the United Synagogue of America and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations. We heartily approve our President's desire to bring together in genuine unity the disunited household of American Jewry; in that same spirit we recommend that this body confirm the conciliatory resolution of our Executive Board adopted at its meeting of October 18, 19, 1952, as follows:

The Union of American Hebrew Congregations endorses the majority decision taken at the NCRAC Plenum in Atlantic City on September 6th and pledges its whole-hearted support of the NCRAC.

The UAHC has viewed with gratification the endeavors of the NCRAC since its creation in 1944. The UAHC recognizes that the NCRAC has not been able to implement all of its charter obligations and all the hopes of its founders, particularly in the areas of evaluation of program and elimination of duplication. The UAHC, nonetheless, commends the NCRAC and the national and local agencies which have labored, in so many instances, cooperatively and zealously in its behalf for its numerous and noteworthy achievements in the field of community relations. American Jewry has been incalculably benefited by the presence and activities of the NCRAC.

The UAHC is eager that the NCRAC continue its work with vigor, mobilizing the full potential and resources of American Jewish life. In the field of community relations it is incumbent upon all elements in the American Jewish community to stand side by side and in a spirit of camaraderie and mutual trust, coordinate and concentrate our efforts.

In the spirit of darkay sholom and in the interests of our people who stand to lose by our disagreement but reap rich rewards from our joint and combined endeavors, the UAHC urges the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith to return to the NCRAC so that in concord we may proceed with the vital and pressing task that so need our unified, full and unflagging strength in the field of Jewish community relations.

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## URGING FULL SUPPORT TO UJA

That the UAHC in convention assembled urges its constituent congregations and the members thereof to give their fullest support to the United Jewish Appeal, particularly in the light of the increasing needs of the causes which it serves throughout the world.

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44th General Assembly

April 1957

Toronto, Canada

## AMERICAN JEWISH

RE-AFFIRMING AUTHORIZATION OF PRESIDENT OF UNION TO PARTICIPATE  
WITH PRESIDENTS OF OTHER NATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

A resolution to rescind previous resolutions of the General Assemblies to authorize the President of the Union to participate with the heads of other organizations "for the purpose of issuing public statements and taking action on military, political, economic and diplomatic matters" was overwhelmingly defeated by the 44th General Assembly.

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44th General Assembly

April-May 1957

Toronto, Canada

## REFUTING ACCUSATIONS OF AMERICAN COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM

The American Council for Judaism has, through official statement and by publications of its representative leaders; repeatedly slandered the UAHC, misrepresenting our positions and casting aspersions on the American loyalty of our adherents. The UAHC has, until now, remained silent, in the face of these untruthful accusations. But, in view of the most recent attack, continued in a letter to our President which was further released to the public press in advance of its receipt by Dr. Eisendrath, we are constrained to make the following statement:

1. We recognize the right of the American Council for Judaism to freedom of opinion and expression; but we insist that the great majority of individuals and congregations which

compose our Union have the same right of opinion and democratic action,

2. The American Council for Judaism misrepresents historical Judaism as well as what it calls "classical Reform Judaism." There is no antithesis between Judaism as a religion, and Jews as a people.
3. The American Council has wantonly impugned the national loyalties of all those Jews who disagree with it. We insist that the Jews of Canada and the United States are properly interested in and concerned for the State of Israel without, in the slightest degree, diminishing their abiding loyalty to their respective countries.
4. The American Council for Judaism has furnished material for professional anti-Semites, who have publicly endorsed its position, and has played directly into the hands of Arab propagandists.
5. In a number of communities, representatives of the American Council have employed morally reprehensible methods to undermine existing congregations and to introduce division and discord into them.

Therefore, the General Assembly of the UAHC declares that the view of Judaism held by the American Council is at variance with the view of the overwhelming majority of Reform Jews in the U.S. and Canada. We shall continue to uphold the positive ideals of Judaism in general and of Reform Judaism in particular, without fear or hesitation.

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45th General Assembly

November 1959

Miami Beach, Fla.

RECOMMENDATION OF PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE COMMITTEE  
URGING UNITY IN AMERICAN JEWISH LIFE

We recommend that our Union, true to its pristine purpose in this direction, continue ever-more active support of the President's Conference, a first tentative step toward some semblance of unity in American Jewry. This step must be pursued further through such coordinating agencies as the Synagogue Council of America and the National Community Relations Advisory Council, and it should be pursued not hesitantly and from crisis to crisis but steadily and steadfastly to the end that we may together rear a more mature, more continuously and consistently unified American Jewish community.



## APPENDIX

Resolutions on Church-State Relations Adopted by the National Community Relations Council and the Synagogue Council of America. The UAHC is a member agency of both coordinating bodies.

### Religion and Public Education Teaching of "Moral and Spiritual" Values

Insofar as the teaching of "spiritual values" may be understood to signify religious teaching, this must remain as it has been the responsibility of the home, the church and the synagogue. Insofar as it is understood to signify the teaching of morality, ethics and good citizenship, a deep commitment to such values has been successfully inculcated by our public schools in successive generations of Americans. The public schools must continue to share responsibility for fostering a commitment to these moral values, without presenting or teaching any sectarian or theological sources or sanctions for such values.

### "Objective" or "Factual" Teaching About Religion

The public schools must and should teach with full objectivity the role that religion has played in the life of mankind and in the development of society, when such teaching is intrinsic to the regular subject matter being studied. We are opposed to attempts by the public elementary and secondary schools to go beyond this, and teach about the doctrines of religion. Without passing upon the question of whether or not such teaching is inconsistent with the principle of separation of church and state, we believe that factual, objective and impartial teaching about the doctrines of religion is an unattainable objective. Any attempt to introduce such teaching into the public schools poses the grave threat of pressures upon school personnel from sectarian groups and compromises the impartiality of teaching and the integrity of the public educational system. Our opposition to such teaching rests on these grounds.

### Teaching of a "Common Core"

We are opposed to any public school program that seeks to inculcate as doctrine any body of principles, beliefs or concepts that is represented as the "common core" of several or all religious faiths. The effort to extract from the religions current among us such a common denominator or "common core" can lead only to a watering down, a vitiation, of all that is spiritually meaningful in every religious faith. We submit moreover, that attempts at religious inculcation in the public schools, even of articles of faith drawn from all religions and endorsed by representatives of all, violate the traditional American principle of separation of church and state.

## Use of School Premises for Religious Purposes

We are opposed to the use of public school premises during school hours for religious education, meetings, or worship. Where public school premises are made available after school hours to civic groups outside the school system, they should be made available on the same basis to religious groups.

### Religious Practices and Observances; Joint Religious Observances

Mindful of the dangers inherent in any violation of the traditional American principle of separation of church and state, we are opposed to religious practices or observances in the public elementary and high schools, including:

- The reading or recitation of prayers
- The reading of the Bible (except as included in a course in literature)
- The distribution of Bibles or religious tracts
- The singing of religious hymns
- The granting of school credits for religious studies
- The wearing of any type of clerical garb by public school teachers on school premises
- The holding of public school classes on the premises of religious institutions
- The taking of a religious census of pupils

We are opposed to the observance of religious festivals in the public elementary and high schools because in our view such observance constitutes a violation of the traditional American principle of the separation of church and state.

Joint religious observances, such as Christmas-Chanuko and Easter-Pasover, are in our opinion no less a breach of the principle of separation of church and state and violate the conscience of many religious persons, Jews and Christians alike.

Where religious holiday observances are nevertheless held in public schools, Jewish children have a right to refrain from participation. We recommend that local Jewish communities take such action as may be appropriate to safeguard this right of non-participation.

### Released Time and Dismissal Time

We believe that Jewish communities are justified in objecting to released time or dismissal time programs.

Inherent in dismissal time are many, though not all, of the faults of released time. Nevertheless, when confronted with the necessity of a choice, we regard dismissal time as less objectionable.

Where a program of released time or dismissal time is in effect, or may be adopted, the Jewish community shall insist upon the following safeguards against possible abuses:

1. No religious instruction shall be given on public school premises;
2. The administrative machinery of the public school system shall not be employed to record or encourage attendance at religious instruction centers of students who avail themselves of either program;
3. There shall be no proselytizing on school premises;
4. All children participating in such programs shall be dismissed together, and all grouping, separation, or identification by religion or by participation or non-participation in such programs shall be avoided;
5. Children shall not be assembled on public school premises for the purpose of being led to religious instruction centers nor shall any representative of such religious instruction center meet the children on such premises to facilitate the operation of either program.

#### Governmental Aid to Religiously Controlled Schools

We are opposed to governmental aid to schools under the supervision or control of any religious denomination or sect, whether Jewish, Protestant, or Catholic, including outright subsidies, transportation, text-books and other supplies. We are not opposed to the use of any school for the provision of lunches, medical and dental services to children.

#### Closing of Public Schools on Jewish High Holy Days

It is our view that whether or not public schools should be closed on Jewish High Holy days is exclusively an administrative question to be decided by the public school authorities in the light of their own judgment as to the advantages or disadvantages involved.

In some communities the public school authorities might find that the large number of absences of Jewish children and teachers make it impossible to engage in any fruitful educational work and therefore justifies keeping the schools closed in the interests of economy and efficiency. In other communities, public school authorities may reach a different conclusion. In either event, the Jewish community can have no special interest in the decision.

#### Therefore, we recommend:

1. It should be the concern of the Jewish community that no Jewish

- child or teacher shall be penalized for remaining away from school on a Jewish religious holiday.
2. That Jewish organizations or leaders should not request the public school system to close the schools on Jewish religious holidays.
  3. Where the public school system, as a matter of school administration, wishes to close the schools on Jewish holidays, and requests an opinion from Jewish organizations or Jewish community leaders, no objection should be interposed by such Jewish representatives, provided the record is made clear that the decision was made purely for administrative reasons and that the Jewish community has not requested such action.

#### Religion and Public Policy Sunday Observance Laws

The principle of religious liberty is impaired if any person is penalized for adhering to his religious beliefs, or for not adhering to any religious belief, so long as he does not interfere with the rights of others or endanger the public peace or security.

We believe that compulsory Sunday observance laws violate this principle, since they involve the use of state power to compel persons to conform to or to refrain from practices that find their basic sanction in particular religious beliefs and teachings.

Accordingly, we oppose the enactment or expansion of compulsory Sunday observance laws. We urge that at the very least existing Sunday observance laws be amended to exempt from their operation persons whose religious convictions compel them to observe a day other than Sunday as a religious day of rest.

We do not oppose, and indeed regard as salutary, laws requiring gainfully occupied persons to observe one day of rest in each week. We hold, however, that the choice of the day to be so observed should be a matter of individual preference.

#### Religious Symbols on Public Property

We oppose the erection of religious statues or the placing of religious symbols on publicly-owned property.\* Public parks, city halls, governmental office buildings and similar premises are purchased and maintained out of taxes imposed upon all persons, irrespective of their religious beliefs or affiliations. The presence on such premises of religious statues or symbols constitutes in effect a dedication of the premises to one sect or creed, to the exclusion of others. The expenditure of governmental funds or the use of governmental property for religious purposes, moreover, is a serious impairment of the principle of separation of church

\* This opposition does not extend to the appropriate designation of places of religious worship on military installations and in other establishments where the movements of personnel are restricted, or to the marking of graves with symbols of the religious faith of the deceased.

and state. Experience has shown that the placing of religious statues or symbols on public property divides the community along religious lines and brings about interreligious disharmony and acrimony.

These evils are substantially aggravated when religious statues or symbols are placed on public school premises. In such cases, sensitive and defenseless children, rather than mature adults, are principally affected. Moreover, attendance at school is not voluntary but is by compulsion of law. To compel children to obtain their secular education in an atmosphere charged with a religion violative of their beliefs is to deny them their full religious liberty, as well as to breach the relationship of confidence and trust that should mark their school experience.

#### Question on Religion in U.S. Census

We are opposed to the inclusion in the federal census of any questions regarding religious affiliation or belief for the following reasons:

- (1) The asking of such questions by census takers would be in violation of the constitutional guaranty of freedom of religion. The United States Supreme Court has expressly declared that, under the freedom of religion provision of the Bill of Rights, no person may be compelled to profess a belief or disbelief in any religion. Persons questioned by census takers are subject to conviction and punishments as criminals if they refuse to answer. However, even if the element of compulsion be eliminated, we would regard the asking of questions about religious affiliation or belief as violative of the Constitutional guaranty of religious freedom.
- (2) The asking of such questions would violate the constitutional guaranty of the separation of church and state; for it would, in effect, make the federal government an agent of religious groups and employ government instrumentalities for church purposes.
- (3) The asking of such questions would constitute an unwarranted infringement upon the privacy of Americans. In a totalitarian society no interests of the people is deemed outside the jurisdiction and concern of the state. In a democracy, on the other hand, the state has only such powers and such jurisdiction as are freely granted to it by the people; certain aspects of the people's lives are held inviolable; chief among these is the relation of man to his Maker. In a democracy committed to the separation of church and state the religion of the people is not a proper subject of government inquiry.
- (4) The asking of such question would create a dangerous precedent, the consequences and implications of which cannot be anticipated. For 170 years our government has refrained from including questions concerning religion in the census. Abandonment of this tradition would inevitably lead to further encroachments upon the liberties of Americans.