

## IMMIGRATION - 1957

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The prompt and generous emergency action of the United States government in receiving many thousands of Hungarian refugees fleeing from the terrible tragedy undergone by that suffering country is to be highly commended. It brings to mind, however, the much larger number of refugees from tyranny in various parts of the world who, for many years, have lived in barren camps or wandered about seeking in vain for permanent homes. Their needs are also great and their plight desperate. These refugees from totalitarianism have been prevented, unfortunately, from finding a haven in the United States of America because of the racist and restrictive immigration policy of the McCarran-Walter Law.

It is indefensible that the emergency provisions of the United States immigration policy have not been extended to these afflicted humans including the tragic Jewish victims of Egyptian persecution, as was done with praiseworthy generosity for Hungarian refugees.

Therefore be it resolved, that the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, in XXIst Biennial Convention assembled in Toronto, Canada from April 28th through May 2nd, 1957, on behalf of its United States members, again urges the Congress to repeal or drastically revise the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act which is Public Law #414. We believe that the first task in such a revision is that the national origins quota system be eliminated since it is violative of both our religious and democratic heritage.

Be it further resolved, That the quotas unused by applicants from certain countries be distributed among applicants from other countries who are desirous of using them. Recent events have dramatized the urgent need to make immigration laws sufficiently flexible and humane to provide for such emergencies as that which took place in Hungary and Egypt and which can well confront us elsewhere in the years to come.