

IMMIGRATION - 1959

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, on behalf of its United States members, has frequently expressed itself upon the subject of immigration. Few topics are more worthy of consistent attention by religious and civic minded individuals who are deeply concerned with the plight of their fellow human beings.

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 National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, like its parent body, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, will cooperate in educating its members about World Refugee Year and the tragic problems still unresolved from both World Wars I and II, as well as from other dislocations, in the lives of refugee men, women and children in many lands. We believe, however, that the plight of refugees can only be fundamentally aided within the framework of the resolution of the entire migration problem of the world.

In the United States this can be furthered by the enactment of a sound immigration law which recognizes all peoples of the world as brothers. We therefore:

1. Call upon the Congress of the United States 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,
 2. non-discriminatory formula for the admission of immigrants into the United States;
 3. remove the harsh and unnecessary deportation provisions from the law;
 4. establish fair appellate procedures in immigration and nationality matters; and
 5. eliminate inequities against naturalized citizens.
2. Pledge our cooperation with the U.S. Committee for Refugees and all other appropriate efforts to further the worthy aims of World Refugee Year.
3. Reiterate our resolve to continue, in cooperation with the Commission on Social Action of Reform
4. Judaism of which we are a part, as well as with other like-minded organizations, programs of education for our members on the subject of an improved United States immigration policy.