

FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL - 1963

The teachings of Judaism are clear and unequivocal on the subject of the dignity and worth of all human beings without regard to racial differences. Speaking in the name of the Most High and addressing His Chosen People, the Prophet asks: "Are ye not as the children of the Ethiopians unto Me, oh children of Israel?" (Amos 9:7).

It is one hundred years since the Emancipation Proclamation freed from slavery Negroes in the United States, but our Negro citizens still suffer the restrictions and humiliations of second-class citizenship in many areas of their lives, whether they live in the North or South, the East or West. Other racial and ethnic minorities suffer similar disabilities in greater or lesser degree. This is an offense against the teachings of Judaism of the brotherhood of all men, as well as against the provisions of the Bill of Rights and the Constitution of the United States. The new movement toward Negro equality should be welcomed not in fear but in gladness as a real opportunity for all citizens to fulfill the American dream and to provide prompt rectification of this long-standing injustice.

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, convened in Biennial Assembly in Chicago, Illinois, November 17-20, 1963, on behalf of its United States affiliates, urges the Congress of the United States to pass comprehensive Civil Rights legislation. Furthermore, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods urges all its members to conduct their relations with their fellow men of whatever racial, ethnic or religious origins in accordance with the highest concepts of the Judaic and democratic principles of justice and equality and to take initiative in finding ways to open equal opportunities for all in education, housing, employment, recreation and the use of public facilities.