

Human Rights - 1979

As an expression of Judaism's ethic of respect for human dignity, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods has long been an advocate for human rights in all aspects, including the protection of civil and political rights, individual liberty and personal security.

In affirmation of this long-standing commitment and reflecting the wisdom of our wise teacher Hillel, "If I am only for myself who am I?," the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods resolves that:

1. We urge the United States and Canada and all of the nations which are signatories to the Helsinki Accords to work toward the guaranteeing of such rights for all people.
2. We urge the governments of our respective worldwide affiliates to take appropriate actions unilaterally and through the United Nations to:
 1. Protest and work toward the cessation of harassment and disappearance of individuals, imprisonment without explanation, the denial of the right to a fair trial and the right to emigrate, on whatever continent and in whatever country such violations of human rights occur.
 2. Insure that humanitarian efforts by agencies such as UNICEF and the International Red Cross to alleviate mass starvation and disease be permitted by governments or authorities wherever necessary.
 3. Express their own commitments to human rights through domestic programs and actions to eliminate discrimination and violations of social, political and civil rights on the basis of race, religion or ethnic identity.
3. We commend those governments, in particular the United States and Canada, which have made extraordinary efforts to receive victims of oppression, violence, warfare or forced expulsion. We urge all governments and the United Nations to take necessary further measures to alleviate the plight of refugees.