

Rights of Individuals - 1977

While we are uncompromising in our adherence to the moral and ethical teachings of Judaism, we are mindful that our tradition is characterized and has been strengthened by differing points of view and interpretation. Judaism and Jews have survived and flourished, often among hostile neighbors and societies whose values were antithetical to those of our religious point of view. We acknowledge that we live in a world in which we may not agree nor condone some lifestyles, behavior, or values. Nonetheless, we are committed to the principle of freedom of expression and the right to dissent. We distinguish between expressions of dissent and actions which deprive persons of their full opportunity for justice, civil and social rights.

We are committed to the sanctity of Jewish marriage and the Jewish family, to the dignity of all persons through love and respect for our parents, our children, our neighbors. As citizens of our respective nations we are committed to achieve and maintain societies in which the civil, legal, social and political rights and guarantees for education, housing, employment, pursuit of self-fulfillment, the expression of cultural and ethnic identity and the absence of coercion or invasion of privacy shall be guaranteed for all persons regardless of color, sex, sexual preference of consenting adults, national origin, religion and political point of view.

Therefore, in consonance with these commitments, the Delegates assembled in San Francisco for the NFTS 31st Biennial Assembly are called upon to:

1) Urge appropriate government officials to implement existing legislation or enact appropriate legislation relating to the construction and design of public buildings, public transportation, educational and employment opportunities for those who are handicapped by virtue of age or physical disability.

To apply these concepts by developing programs and services to integrate, wherever possible, the elderly and physically handicapped as active participants into Sisterhood, synagogue and community life.

2) Recognize the profound problems of our economy resulting in increased unemployment; United States Sisterhoods should undertake programs of study and, where appropriate, of legislative advocacy to deal with problems of developing employment opportunities for youth, the disadvantaged and the aging. Urge public and private agencies as well as business to: develop programs of job training and employment opportunities appropriate to the experience of youth; develop equitable wage scales that recognize distinctions in experience and ability, so that greater employment opportunities for youth are created in addition to full employment for experienced and trained workers.

3) Support and undertake programs of study and, where appropriate, advocacy in relation to the accepted age of non-voluntary retirement. Further, on behalf of the United States Sisterhoods, we call upon our government to review the present provisions of the Social Security Act, to consider increased possibilities for employment of retired persons without depriving them of their earned social security benefits. Such changes would enrich our society through continued contributions of experience and ability of older persons as well as creating a climate of full acceptance of all persons, regardless of age.

Remind Sisterhoods of the special opportunities that are available to enhance the lives of senior citizens in their midst of the obligation to undertake special programs and the need to be sensitive to include persons of all ages

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in their overall programming.