

## Children's Rights - 1979

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The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods throughout its history has acted on behalf of children in parallel ways: with concern for the Jewish child, Sisterhoods have served as vehicles for educating Jewish parents, assumed responsibility to implement children's religious and spiritual education through family and synagogue and helped organize and support Jewish educational and cultural opportunities for youth; as advocates for the needs and rights of all children, the Federation has adopted resolutions and inaugurated action programs dealing with such matters as child labor, juvenile justice, child abuse, pornography, day-care services and other matters relating to children.

Recognizing our responsibility toward our children and committed to the principle of creating a just society which meets all children's needs and provides opportunities through which they are properly equipped to participate in that society, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods resolves that:

1) Sisterhoods shall recognize the responsibility, whether by themselves or in cooperation with congregations, to provide continuing and expanded Jewish educational opportunities for parents and children and to encourage the establishment of Reform Jewish preschool programs and day care centers in the synagogue. We commend the UAHC Department on Education for including as part of its integrated curriculum for lifelong Jewish study, needs of preschool children.

2) We commend all nations and groups that have cooperated in the United States International Year of the Child. Spurred by IYC and programs of awareness, advocacy and action, we urge Sisterhoods to strengthen and expand such programs whether alone or in cooperation with other groups.

3) On behalf of the United States members we commend the United States Government for its program during IYC. We recognize, however, that children's needs cannot be fully perceived nor met during one year only; neither can they be sustained without relevant programs, services and effective organizational structure and funding. Thus, we reaffirm the NFTS 1977 resolution urging the President and Congress to develop a coherent program to protect and aid children. We urge the President and Congress to continue the Federal Inter-Agency Committee concerned with Children which was established for the International Year of the Child.

We further urge the continuation of programs and efforts of voluntary agencies inaugurated during IYC, including inter-organizational cooperation with government agencies. We endorse the establishment of the National Organizations Advisory Council to provide a channel of communication, motivation and cooperation for the advancement of children.

4) We commend the government of Canada and other countries of our worldwide Federation for their support of IYC. We call upon these Sisterhoods to encourage their respective governments and voluntary agencies to initiate, maintain and expand programs to provide services and protection on behalf of children.