

THE WORTH OF THE INDIVIDUAL- 1957

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods reiterates its deep conviction that the basic concept of Judaism of the fatherhood of God involves the corollary, the brotherhood of all men. Therefore, segregation by creed or race, or the judgment of a human being on any other basis than that of individual worth, is contrary to the sacred principles not only of Judaism, but also of all great ethical religions.

We are deeply aware that the implementation of the Supreme Court's decision of May 17, 1954 banning racial segregation in the public schools, and the clarification of the decision handed down by the Court later, has underscored many difficulties and many problems. We fully realize that deeply rooted social mores, long in the building, cannot be recreated solely by the stroke of a pen.

The many states and school districts in the United States that either have successfully followed the Court's decision during the past three years, or are about to do so, have demonstrated that when good faith, patient understanding and respect for orderly legal processes are present, grave societal problems can be justly resolved. We are firmly convinced that religiously oriented organizations and individuals have a profound responsibility to translate ethical principles into practice so that the ideals of justice and brotherhood will become truly meaningful terms.

We are gravely troubled by resistance to the Supreme Court's decisions in various parts of the United States. These practices of urging resistance to an order of the Supreme Court of the United States transcend the immediate issues and pose a most fundamental threat to all who believe in law, order and constitutional liberties under the democratic American form of government.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, in 21st Biennial Convention assembled in Toronto, Canada from April 28 through May 2, 1957, on behalf of its United States units, urges all its members to join with other like-thinking individuals and groups in their communities toward the end that the law of the land will be respected and that religious principles of the unsegregated equality of men in the sight of God and man will be respected.