

JUSTICE FOR ALL - 1961

Spiritually and morally, and in many nations of the world legally, right is on the side of every child of God who seeks to enjoy peaceably the good things of His earth and to grow in excellence. We, of the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, gathered at the 23rd Biennial Assembly in Washington, D.C., November 15, 1961, affirm our belief in the basic concept of Judaism of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. As religionists who are the inheritors of a long tradition of respect for social justice, we must continue to accept the challenge to close the gap separating the ideals in which we believe, the words we speak, and the deeds we do.

Discrimination in housing, in public facilities and in economic and political opportunities are evils which face mankind, not only in varying degrees in all parts of the United States, but also in other lands as well. We recognize the difficult problems of adjustment in the evolutionary processes of change in man and in nations. Yet, we cannot justify continued opposition to change on the basis of social mores when these are founded on ideas that directly contradict the religion we proudly profess. As Jews, we know that when we keep any man degraded, we degrade ourselves. When we keep any man from moving up the ladder of human progress, we lower ourselves on the rungs of human decency.

The teachings of our prophets and conformity with the beliefs of Judaism must guide our judgment in the quest for justice. We commend those agencies of government and of communities which, in the face of grave problems and opposition, have shown wisdom and courage in making progress toward furthering the universal goal of human equality. We shall stand behind the efforts of national, state and local governments which seek, by whatever means they can and within the framework of their potentials, to remedy the inequities which have been visited upon racial or ethnic or religious groups. Only by the combined efforts of all can the religious and secular goals of mankind become a reality. Thus would we, through study of issues and support of solutions, redeem for ourselves and others the promise of justice, freedom and opportunity.