

## Soviet Jewry - 1971

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Jewish citizens of the Soviet Union who wish publicly to adhere to and affirm their ties and allegiance to their Jewish heritage have for years been restricted by the government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. We note this fact with deep concern as well as with sympathy for their suffering and pride in their courage. Many of our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union have risked and continue to risk the penalties of harassment, trials on questionable charges, imprisonment or even loss of life itself, to foster activities they find necessary for the expression and fulfillment of their Jewish identity.

Therefore, in convention assembled in Los Angeles, California in November 1971, The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods records:

1. This reminder to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of its own early declared stands in regard to human rights whether expressed through Conventions which they fostered and voted for in the United Nations or in the language of its own Constitution;
2. That we reject the charges that learning and teaching the language, history, culture and heritage of the Jewish people and Judaism constitute anti-Soviet propaganda or action;
3. The treatment of Soviet Jewry is more than a Jewish problem. It is intertwined with the hopes of all who believe in religious freedom and human dignity.

Further, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods appeals to the government of the Soviet Union to:

1. Cease its policy of discrimination against and vilification of Jews;
2. Grant to all Jews in the Soviet Union of whatever age or sex the right to live without recrimination or deprivation of any kind:
  1. As knowledgeable, observant Jews within their country;
  2. As potential emigrants to Israel or to any other country of their choice;
  3. As returnees to the Soviet Union in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which allows for both emigration and return.
3. We further resolve, that the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods and its affiliated Sisterhoods, District Federations and members shall intensify their activities in the support of the rights of Soviet Jewry through:
  1. Increased recognition and support in the United States of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry;
  2. Community-wide petitions for both Jewish and non-Jewish signatories which shall serve the dual purpose of:
    1. Educating both Jew and non-Jew alike to this tragic situation;
    2. Indicating to the U.S.S.R. the scope of public sentiment in favor of religious freedom and against discrimination of the Jewish or any other religious or ethnic group.
  3. Activities in various communities by Jewish women in support of Soviet Jewry through programs of responsible groups including the Leadership Conference of National Jewish Women's Organizations of which our own National Federation is a member. Similar activities should be encouraged in other countries through their respective agencies.
  4. Appeals to the governments of the United States and Canada and through them to other governments to

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use influence with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics against discriminatory treatment of any of its citizens, making clear that such discrimination, whether anti-Jewish or anti any other religious group, is morally wrong and politically unfeasible.