

## Boat People - 1979

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And if a stranger sojourn with thee in your land, ye shall not do him wrong. The stranger that sojourneth with you shall be unto you as the homeborn among you, and thou shalt love him as thyself; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. (Leviticus 19:34)

Jews have a special concern for refugees. The memory of boatloads of refugees from Nazi Germany being turned away from the shores of country after country is seared upon the Jewish soul and will never be erased. Out of the tragedy of the Vietnamese and other "boat people," hope for a life of dignity and freedom has been given to those refugees received by the United States, Canada and some other nations.

To help turn the hope of all "boat people" into reality, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods:

1. Commends the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and especially its Pacific Southwest Council, and the Commission on Social Action, for their humanitarian efforts in organizing the movement in the United States and Canada to sponsor a minimum of 1,800 refugees by our congregations and in their communities.
2. Calls upon all Sisterhoods and members to cooperate with their congregations in this noble and extraordinary opportunity to save human lives. Where needed and appropriate, Sisterhoods are urged to cooperate with other Sisterhoods, congregations and agencies whether within the Jewish community or other religious or secular communities, providing needed services of settlement and integration. We commend those congregations, Sisterhoods and others who have already made commitments of sponsorship and are in the process of fulfilling them.