

## Israel and Peace in the Middle East - 1979

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The long dream of the Jewish people to return to Zion has been translated by Israel into the reality of the ingathering of Jews from every corner of the earth, giving haven and hope to all: "To be a light unto the nations." Israel has demonstrated her willingness to share technological, scientific, medical and social developments with other nations, especially those of the Third World. As a sovereign nation, she has demonstrated her willingness to negotiate realistically for peace with her adversaries and to live in peace within the family of nations, consistent with her obligation to protect her citizens.

We reaffirm our devotion to Israel and its centrality to Judaism and our lives as Jews. Its existence, its security and strengths give us hope to continue in the struggle to better the lives of all peoples. In this spirit the National Federation of Temple Sisterhood resolves that:

1. We commend Prime Minister Menachem Begin and President Anwar Sadat for their commitment to peace, for their courage and determination in forging a program for peace that will serve for the mutual and reciprocal betterment of their peoples.
2. We call upon all governments and peoples to encourage and allow the process of peace to reach the fruition of reality. Only with peaceful coexistence, the development of normal trade and exchange of ideas and people can stability be secured.
3. We call upon all Sisterhoods and their members to urge their respective governments to honor their commitments as expressed in the United Nations Security Council UN Resolutions 242 and 338 without change of language or intent which would undermine the integrity of these resolutions, because they are an intrinsic part of the peace accords.
4. We call upon all Sisterhoods, particularly in the United States and Canada, to urge their respective governments to accord official recognition to Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel.
5. We respectfully urge the government of Israel to continue to realize that its security involves domestic tranquility. Such tranquility can be achieved only when the full rights of all of its citizens are guaranteed by law and implemented by public and private practices. We urge accelerated programs and services to lessen the economic and social breaches between segments of society. We urge affirmative programs to create cooperative endeavors between Israeli Arabs and Jews. Further, we urge the government of Israel to acknowledge the plurality of Jewish religious expressions and grant full rights and recognition to the Rabbis, leaders, congregations and institutions of Reform, Progressive and Conservative Judaism.
6. We express our satisfaction at the establishment and growing strengths of Reform and Progressive Zionist associations—ARZA in the United States, Kadima in Canada, Pro-Zion in the United Kingdom, DZM in Southern Africa, and others. These agencies provide opportunities for Reform and Progressive Jews to contribute their unique strengths and perspectives to Israel and the Jewish people. Further, we urge members to implement their concern through membership in the appropriate organization.