

WUPJ International Assembly Meeting

February 8th 2011 - San Francisco, USA

Resolutions Approved

1) WUPJ Resolution on Islamophobia and Extremism

Whereas as Jews, we have experienced & continue to confront the bigotry of anti-Semitism & its distortions of the teachings of Judaism.

Whereas we oppose the prejudices which turn God's children against each other, aimed at people of all religions. We decry especially the wave of Islamophobia which de-legitimizes the faith and practices of Muslims all over the world.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly joins with the overwhelming majority of Muslims in condemning Islamic extremism, which threatens moderate Muslims even as it threatens peace everywhere. We call upon the affiliated members and institutions of the World Union for Progressive Judaism to work with people of all religions through dialogue and religious action to create a more peaceful world one of mutual respect and understanding.

2) WUPJ Resolution on Gender and Sexual Equality

Whereas this International body of the World Union for Progressive Judaism condemns all forms of bigotry and discrimination in our society as being incompatible with the preservation of human dignity which is destructive of *tzelem elohim*.

And whereas the WUPJ upholds the principle of treating all people equally whether by gender, age, colour or sexual preference.

And whereas the WUPJ has long championed full equality of women in our movement and in society generally.

IT IS RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism calls on all institutions, colleges, congregations and youth groups to give equal opportunity to gay and lesbian members, especially in terms of leadership and learning and to be aware of gender issues when developing study curriculum

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism calls on all institutions associated with the WUPJ to treat gay and lesbian couples in the same manner as married heterosexual couples and families. This call includes commitment ceremonies, and family membership fees.

3) IMPJ Resolution for WUPJ Supporting Progressive and Conservative Rabbis

Whereas the current situation in Israel is that the State does not recognize or acknowledge non-Orthodox rabbis and does not finance the religious services provided by them.

And whereas the World Union for Progressive Judaism has called upon its members to support the endeavors for recognition of Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel and specifically the struggle of Rabbi Miri Gold to be recognized as a regional rabbi in Gezer Regional Council, where she provides religious services.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism calls on all of its members to support the activities of the Israel Movement for Progressive Judaism and the Israel Religious Action Center in this matter, in order to elicit government funds for non-Orthodox rabbis.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this International Assembly the World Union for Progressive Judaism calls on its members to support all efforts that demand the State acknowledge the authority for Reform and Conservative rabbis to provide religious services such as marriage, conversion and life cycle events in Israel.

4) IMPJ Resolution for the WUPJ on Racism

Whereas of late, racist statements especially targeting the Arab citizens of Israel, immigrants and refugees, are becoming more common and more severe while becoming more socially acceptable in the eyes of the public.

And whereas in particular, some Rabbis are even manipulating Jewish religious texts in order to justify these statements.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism calls on all of its members to condemn all racist statements and to clarify that the Jewish religion does not support these expressions.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this International Assembly of The World Union for Progressive Judaism also calls its members to request that Israel's President, the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and the Attorney General condemn racism, specifically the recent public appeals to not rent apartments to the Arab citizens of Israel, to immigrants and/or to refugees. We also call on them to reinforce the rules of democracy in Israel by prosecuting any person expressing racism and/or incitement to violence.

5) UPJ Resolution for the WUPJ on Genocide

Whereas between 1933 and 1945 the Jewish people of Europe suffered a genocide that was more extensive, of greater intensity, and with a higher numerical death toll than any other victim group in the 20th century; and

Whereas it is universally recognized that the 20th century was a century in which the scourge of genocide took more lives overall than all wars combined, and that this trend has continued into the 21st century; and

Whereas a range of educational, social, religious, legal and political steps have been undertaken around the world since 1945 to raise consciousness about genocide and massive human rights violations, and to prepare future generations to confront the preconditions leading to genocide,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, representing 1.7 million people, calls upon the United Nations and member states assembled, to prevent and punish the crime of genocide as enacted in GA Res, 260 A (III) of December 9, 1948, and to take real and tangible action to alleviate the effects of genocide through the provision of protection and assistance to civilians at risk of, or experiencing, genocidal harm; reception of those seeking sanctuary in lands beyond genocidal reach; and support for those seeking justice in post-genocidal environments.

6) UPJ Resolution for the WUPJ on Domestic Violence

Whereas women from all cultural, religious, and socio-economic classes are victimized by violence and abuse; and

Whereas such forms of violence and abuse may take many forms including emotional, physical, sexual, verbal, and financial; and

Whereas these abusive and violent acts are considered to be violations of the most basic and fundamental human rights, thereby precluding the right of women to participate fully in society; and

Whereas the rate of abusive and violent acts perpetrated against women is on the rise, both within Jewish communities and throughout society worldwide,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, representing 1.7 million people, calls upon its member congregations and constituents to take real and tangible action by partnering with local communal organizations who are presently addressing the impact of violence and abuse perpetrated against women and offering programs to empower women to remove themselves from such situations.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that conspicuous resources (both online and in print form) be made available to congregants who attend activities in synagogues and view communal

websites; formally encouraging men to participate in programs designed to prevent violence against women and children and pledge never to commit or condone such acts of violence; and by responding openly to those in need by promoting awareness of safe havens and shelters.

Philip Bliss Chair Resolutions Committee WUPJ