

RESOLUTIONS OF THE MEMBERSHIP,  
THE CONFERENCE OF JEWISH  
COMMUNAL SERVICE  
ANNUAL MEETING, CLEVELAND,  
MAY 27, 1986

*Participation matters. The Conference of Jewish Communal Service believes that we, as citizens and professionals, have not merely the right but also the responsibility to participate actively in the public policy issues that are significant to our fields of practice, the Jewish community, and the broader community in which we live. All elements within CJCS—the APA's, and their members, local forums and members—are encouraged to become actively involved.*

FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY IN  
PROVIDING HUMAN SERVICES

Judaism asserts as a fundamental principle the need to provide for the needy among us. We see support of this mandate as central to our professional calling.

We are deeply concerned about the insensitivity and inability of all levels of government to adequately address the problems of the poor and the disadvantaged.

Therefore, CJCS:

1. urges its entire membership to become involved actively in political efforts to preserve funding for essential human services in their communities;
2. encourages the formation of local, statewide, and national coalitions to bring the message of the chronically poor and needy to all levels of government; and,
3. calls for the mounting of seminars, in conjunction with other Jewish communal professionals, to assist the Jewish community in understanding the impact of government cutback proposals on the network of services that the community seeks to provide.

COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR  
MEETING HUMAN NEEDS

It is not enough to lament cutbacks in programs by government. The Jewish

community is faced with serious funding problems to meet even current requests for service. In more and more of our communities, colleagues report reductions—real or threatened—in allocations to our agencies.

Many communities are evaluating priorities, trying to determine the maximum effective use of available communal dollars. Communities are weighing their local, national and overseas obligations to assure the use of funds most likely to preserve both a strong Diaspora Jewry as well as a secure world Jewish community.

CJCS believes that all of us have crucial roles to play in this central planning process—a process involving lay and professional community members working together.

We must assist our communities and members to come to grips with such issues as:

1. Determining for threatened services alternative sources of support—grants, foundations, research projects, different fee schedules, corporate involvement etc.
2. Working with Federation planning departments to develop actual service statistics detailing the effect of cutbacks in funding on client service, waiting lists, staffing, etc. These data should form the core of political advocacy programs in all capitals.

3. Determining whether existing priorities are reflective of communal circumstances today.

#### ISRAEL

The security and well-being of the State of Israel and her people are crucial to CJCS. We believe that Israel has a right to live in peace with her neighbors within secure, recognized boundaries. With the entire Jewish community, CJCS renews its commitment to:

1. advocate continuing military and economic assistance for Israel;
2. increase understanding of Israel's common political culture with the Western democracies and therefore her centrality to their interests;
3. work with both the APAs and the entire membership to deepen their appreciation of Israel's significance to diaspora Jewry; and
4. increase understanding of the Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and Israel, within the community and advocate its implementation and utilization.

As we meet, Israel's tourist industry, so vital to that nation's economy, is facing a disastrous year, the result of fear of travel on the part of many because of international terrorism.

In order to obtain maximum participation in travel to Israel and to demonstrate the solidarity between the North American Jewish Community and the people of Israel, the Conference of Jewish Communal Service resolves that:

1. All members of CJCS should make every effort to travel to Israel this year
2. All members of CJCS will encourage Jews to travel to Israel.

#### SOVIET JEWRY

The release earlier this year of Anatoly Shcharansky was a tribute to the courage

and indomitable spirit of the man. Years of confinement did nothing to dim his vision of life as a free man, a Zionist, a human rights champion, living in Israel.

At the same time, the freedom of Anatoly (now "Natan") Shcharansky demonstrated that the actions of thousands of Jews and non-Jews in the West can have an impact. Years of political advocacy, demonstrations, vigils, press conferences, letter writing, and speaking on his behalf gave the lie to Shcharansky's Soviet jailers who taunted him with the suggestion that he would be forgotten. He was not, and now he is a free man.

However, as we are gladdened by Shcharansky's freedom, we recall that there are tens of thousands of Shcharanskys still in the Soviet Union. Oppression of those seeking to leave as well as official anti-Semitism and harassment of Hebrew teachers have continued and in fact increased in the past year. Refuseniks, prisoners of conscience, indeed all individuals who yearn to live as Jews in freedom, have a claim on the time, attention, and efforts of the members of the Conference. As in the past, CJCS pledges its active involvement in the struggle to assure full human rights for all Soviet Jews. We call upon the APAs and our members to:

1. educate themselves about the continuing plight of Soviet Jewry;
2. become active in advocacy groups both nationally and locally;
3. use local Soviet Jewish neighbors as resources to understand the nature of Soviet society and to advocate on behalf of Soviet Jews still not able to emigrate from the Soviet Union, as well as those who would like to live freely as Jews in the Soviet Union;
4. mobilize local "influentials"—media, academics, politicians—to join the effort on behalf of Soviet Jews; and,
5. urge agencies in which we work to

"adopt" Soviet Jewish refuseniks and prisoners of conscience, to write to them, to give them honorary board status, and to report on them at board meetings and other agency events.

#### INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

CJCS deplores terrorism in all its forms. No program, no political objective justifies deliberate, calculated, cold-blooded attacks on innocent civilians. Terrorism in all its forms must be deplored and rejected by

people of goodwill around the world.

While we have a bias against the use of force to settle disputes and would urge the resolution of conflicts between nations through negotiations and mutual recognition rather than through violence, we believe that nations have the right to take what steps they deem necessary, including military action, to strike at terrorism and protect the well being of their citizens. While we lament the loss of lives in these assaults, we believe that such responses are justified when they strike at terrorists directly.