

WORLD
UNION FOR
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JUDAISM



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WUPJ International Assembly Meeting

May 1st, 2013 – Jerusalem, Israel

Suggested Resolutions

1 WUPJ Resolution on a Tikkun Olam Project:

(Proposed by IMPJ)

Whereas the theme of this year's Connections convention is "Being the Difference" and;

Whereas one of the main speakers at this convention is Ruth Messinger, CEO/President of the American Jewish World Service (AJWS), an international development organization motivated by Judaism's imperative to pursue justice and;

Whereas AJWS projects have proven to be an extremely effective way of connecting Jews to their heritage and at the same time promoting social justice in their own societies and in vulnerable communities around the world and;

Whereas WUPJ congregations around the world strive to develop meaningful programming to attract and maintain involvement of younger members of our communities;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ calls upon the WUPJ to work together with all regions of the WUPJ and their affiliates to explore the possibility of developing a pilot program that would involve partnerships between young Progressive volunteers from around the world, including Israel, to shape a just future in Israel and in a community in need within a third world country; working together as Progressive Jews to achieve change through volunteer service programming based on Jewish text study and Progressive Jewish values.

Further development of such a project can lead to a Progressive Service Corps which could expand to include opportunities for Progressive adults of all ages to express their desire to be agents for shaping a just future in Israel and around the world.

רח' דוד המלך 13, ירושלים 94101, Jerusalem, Israel 94101

Tel: 02-620-3447 • Fax: 02-620-3525 • Website: www.wupj.org • E-mail: wupjis@wupj.org.il

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2. WUPJ Resolution on Gender Segregation in the Public Sphere in Israel

(Proposed by IMPJ)

Whereas as Progressive, Reform, Liberal Jews we hold dearly the concept of gender equality and strive to promote this equality in all aspects of our daily individual and communal endeavours and;

Whereas we view with great dismay the increasing phenomena of gender segregation in the public sphere in the State of Israel, and unfortunately spreading to Jewish communities world-wide (South Africa for example) with exclusion of women from leading and singing in public ceremonies; gender segregation in public buses, gender segregation in public facilities being some of the examples;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ calls upon the newly elected Members of Knesset & Government of Israel to address and bring to an end this alarming phenomena in a comprehensive fashion and to create concrete and enforceable measures to stop gender segregation in all facets of public life. This Assembly further calls upon all constituent members to condemn any form of gender segregation in any community worldwide.

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3. WUPJ Resolution on Recognition of Non-Orthodox Rabbis in Israel

(Proposed by IMPJ)

Whereas the WUPJ members around the world have been involved in efforts to encourage the Government of Israel to recognize Reform and Conservative rabbis in Israel and continue to strongly support this endeavour; and

Whereas the Supreme Court of Israel in January 2011 issued a ruling allowing arrangements for paying the salaries of non- Orthodox rabbis who serve regional congregations; and

Whereas this is a significant step toward general recognition of Reform and Conservative rabbis with much more work needed to be done, one of the next steps being recognition of neighbourhood rabbis; and

Whereas, non- Orthodox rabbis in Israel still do not have the authority to marry or convert their congregants;

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ commend the decisions already taken by the Supreme Court of Israel in regard to rabbis of regional councils and,

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ calls upon the Government of Israel to grant equality to the Progressive streams of Judaism: to provide equal funding to our movements and to acknowledge the authority of Reform and Conservative rabbis to provide all religious services including burial, marriage and conversion.

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ל י ה ד ו ת
מ ת ק ד מ ת

4. WUPJ Resolution on the rights of all Jews to pray at the Kotel

(Proposed by IMPJ)

Whereas the struggle of the "Women of the Wall" has brought to the fore the issue of gender segregation in the area of the Western Wall and;

Whereas the authorities have become increasingly strident and aggressive in enforcing gender segregation in all areas around the Kotel including forbidding mixed seating at ceremonies, forbidding women service leaders, and increasing the number of arrests of women who participate in Rosh Chodesh Women of the Wall prayers and;

Whereas, the governing body of the Wall is made up entirely of representatives of Orthodox bodies,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ calls upon the Government of Israel to:

1. Appoint representatives of non- Orthodox bodies to the governing body of the Western Wall;
2. Establish a third section in the main area of the Western Wall which will allow egalitarian prayer and will eliminate gender segregation for prayer at the Wall;
3. Eliminate all signs and methods of gender segregation related to the entire public space around the Wall, outside of the areas of prayer.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that all constituents and congregations of the WUPJ should call upon their members to make these positions known to the representatives of the Government of Israel.

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5. WUPJ Resolution on Racist Incitement

(Proposed by IMPJ)

Whereas as Progressive, Reform, Liberal Jews we believe that "Veahavt Le'reacha camocha" is the most basic & sacred Jewish command and value and;

Whereas we view with great concern the rise in racist incitement in the name of Judaism in Israel, and we are particularly alarmed by racist incitement by State employed Rabbis and;

Whereas we view with great concern the worldwide rise in racism and anti-Semitism disguised in a form of being merely anti-Israel, with a special concern to those who deny Israel's right to exist as the homeland of the Jewish people who elect to do so.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ condemns all racist incitement in the name of Judaism. This assembly states that the Judaism we believe in values every person created in God's image, and commands us to treat every individual with respect and equality.

IT IS ALSO HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ calls upon the newly elected Government of Israel to address the issue of incitement to racism which is endangering the fabric of Israeli Democracy, and manipulating our Jewish heritage.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that this International Assembly condemns the rise of anti-Semitism and calls upon all institutions associated with the WUPJ as well as governments, non-governmental organizations and their respective leaders and employees to vigorously fight such racism, anti-Semitism and unfounded denial of the right of the Jewish people for self-determination in their ancient homeland. It is also hereby resolved that all constituents and congregations of the WUPJ will call upon their members to make these positions known to the representatives in any such organization.

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**6. WUPJ Proposed Resolution on Fiftieth Anniversary of Vatican II and Nostra
Aetate**

(Proposed by Resolutions Committee)

Whereas the WUPJ has actively participated in the historic rapprochement between the Jewish People and the Roman Catholic Church over the last fifty years since Vatican II and the promulgation of Nostra Aetate, and;

Whereas Progressive Jews, and our rabbis, synagogues, and other institutions, have been among the leaders in building interfaith dialogue and action throughout the world.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that we call upon our members and institutions to commemorate during the next couple of years the historic achievements in interfaith reconciliation during the last half century.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the WUPJ takes this opportunity to wish Pope Francis 1 a long and fulfilling papacy, and note with pleasure the new Pope's active involvement in improving interfaith relations particularly with the Church's relationship with the Jewish community.

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7. WUPJ Resolution on Islamophobia and Religious Extremism

(Proposed by Resolutions Committee)

Whereas, in 2011, the WUPJ Resolved to oppose the prejudices which turn God's children against each other, aimed at people of all religions, especially the wave of Islamophobia which delegitimizes the faith and practices of Muslims all over the world, and;

Whereas the International Assembly in its resolution joined with the overwhelming majority of Muslims in condemning Islamic extremism, which threatens moderate Muslims even as it threatens peace everywhere, and;

Whereas we called 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.

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the WUPJ condemns the increasing acts of violence by a few Ultra-Orthodox Jews against Moslems and Christians in Israel and supports all measures to educate young Jews to respect and value people of other faiths.

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8. WUPJ Proposed Resolution on Marriage Equality

(Proposed by Resolutions Committee)

Whereas 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, and;

Whereas the 2011 International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism called on all institutions, colleges, congregations and youth groups to give equal opportunity to gay and lesbian bisexual transgender and inter-sex members (GLBTI), especially in terms of leadership and learning and to be aware of gender issues when developing study curriculum, and;

Whereas the 2011 International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism called on all institutions associated with the WUPJ to treat GLBTI couples in the same manner as married heterosexual couples and families. This call included commitment ceremonies, and family membership fees.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the 2013 International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism calls upon all institutions associated with the WUPJ to promote, where possible, marriage equality within our movement, and to join with others to support legislation to help guarantee the legal rights of GLBTI couples to marry civilly and religiously, and to secure their marital legal rights in full equality to heterosexual couples.

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10. Resolution on WUPJ Fundraising

(Proposed by UPJ – Australia, Asia and New Zealand)

Whereas, given the vital role that Netzer plays in the development of future leaders for communities around the world it is felt to be essential to provide as much support as possible to the organization, and;

Whereas, in light of the ever-increasing cost of the Shnat and other programs it is also felt that there is need for fundraising strategies to be developed and implemented that do not rely solely on the efforts of the current leadership of the movement – and do reach out for support to former members and parents of Netzer members.

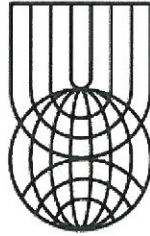
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ proposes to create a working party together with the Youth and Young Adults committee that will work with the paid and volunteer leadership of Netzer in order to nurture and develop the organization and to explore ways of providing funding and support for that organization and its current and future members.

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11. WUPJ Resolution on WZO Elections

(Proposed by UPJ – Australia, Asia and New Zealand)

Whereas, given the crucially important role of the World Zionist Congress (WZC) in shaping the relationship between Israel and Diaspora Jewry, and;

Whereas, we believe that there is great need for a strong Progressive presence in that forum, and;

Whereas, there will be elections for delegates to the WZC in 2015 and it is felt that there is need for all Reform/ Progressive groups to work together in order to maximize our representation in the forthcoming World Zionist Congress.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the International Assembly of the WUPJ calls on the WUPJ to work in close partnership with ARZENU in order to promote membership in ARZENU-affiliated groups and to create new constituent organizations where none currently exist and to encourage the members of all WUPJ-affiliated organizations to vote for the ARZENU or ARZENU constituent organization delegates in the forthcoming World Zionist Congress elections in 2015.

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**12. WUPJ Resolution on the Establishment of the School for Jewish Theology at
Potsdam University in 2013**

(Proposed by Resolutions Committee)

Whereas, the beginnings of modern education for rabbis and of Jewish theology in the modern vein are closely linked to the German rabbi Abraham Geiger (1810–1874). He was to call for the establishment of such a Jewish theological faculty, as early as 1830 as litmus test for the completion of Jewish emancipation. In 1870, Geiger developed a detailed curriculum for such an institution and lived to see the foundation of the “Hochschule fuer die Wissenschaft des Judentums in Berlin” in 1872, shortly before his death in 1874. In 1933, a catastrophic time of utmost darkness for German Jews began and subsequently the rabbinical seminaries were closed [IV]. Abraham Geiger’s demand for equality of rabbinical training in Germany became nothing but a footnote in history, and;

Whereas, now we are experiencing a renaissance of Jewish life in Germany, symbolized most fully by the founding of the Abraham Geiger College in 1999, a rabbinical seminary with Geiger’s vision at its center, and;

Whereas, true to that vision the German State of Brandenburg will finally integrate rabbinic studies as a theological department within Potsdam University in 2013. Jewish theology will become a regular academic subject in Germany at last, equal to the training modes of pastors, imams and priests and financially covered by the public purse.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the International Assembly of the World Union for Progressive Judaism notes this achievement of the Abraham Geiger College as an historic milestone in the development of European rabbinical training and applauds Germany and the State of Brandenburg for this significant step in finally granting equality to Judaism along with Christianity and Islam.

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**13 WUPJ Resolution to Return the Brodsky Synagogue back to the Odessa
Progressive Community**

(Proposed by the FSU region and the Odessa Progressive Community)

Whereas the Brodsky Synagogue in Odessa, Ukraine, being built in 1863 by the Reform Jews from Brody, Germany and;

Whereas the Brodsky Synagogue was the largest and one of the most famous in the Southern Russian Empire renowned for its magnificent choir, cantor, famous Jewish poets, writers and philosophers and;

Whereas, after the Russian revolution the Brodsky Synagogue was closed down and eventually became the home of the Odessa State archives,

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that this International Assembly of the WUPJ calls on the Odessa City authorities to return the Brodsky Synagogue to the Progressive Jewish Community of Odessa, its rightful owners, before the building falls further into disrepair and necessitates demolition.

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