

## DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING - 1959

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At its 21st Biennial Convention held in Toronto, Canada, April 28-May 2, 1957, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods adopted a resolution entitled The Worth of the Individual. In that statement the Federation reiterated its deep convictions (1) that the basic concept of Judaism of the Fatherhood of God involves the corollary, the Brotherhood of all men; (2) that deeply rooted social mores cannot be recreated solely by the stroke of a pen; (3) that resistance to the historic order of May 17, 1954, of the Supreme Court of the United States is a threat to law, order and constitutional liberties under the democratic American form of government; (4) that all members should join in respect for the law of the land toward the end that religious principles of the unsegregated equality of men in the sight of God and man will be respected.

While this statement was being adopted by the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods on behalf of its U.S. members, the 44th General Assembly of the Federation's parent body, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, pledged support to the principle of equal housing opportunities for all and urged the members of its constituent congregations to follow non-segregated practices in the selling, buying, and leasing of residential housing.

It is only a re-emphasis of the National Federation's respect for "The Worth of the Individual" when we recognize the unfortunate spreading pattern of racial segregation in housing in all parts of our land. This segregation in residential areas underlies many other aspects of race relations including for example, schools attended by children from a single racial background, whether they may live in the North, the South, the East or the West.

Therefore, on behalf of our United States units, we urge appropriate legislation by national, state and local government to assure equality of opportunity in housing for all Americans regardless of race, religion or national ancestry.

Furthermore, we call upon our members to study the problem of discrimination in housing as it affects their own communities and to examine, each within herself, her reactions to the moral imperatives of Judaism, translating these imperatives into concrete action to remove her personal prejudices and the unjust barriers which men have created against their fellow men.