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Resolution - Housing Discrimination

Union of American Hebrew Congregations

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UAHC - 45th Biennial Assembly - Nov. 1959

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RESOLUTION - HOUSING DISCRIMINATION

Because of our profound commitment to the equality of all men under God, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has consistently opposed every form of discrimination.

Out of this conviction, we have supported the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court in the school segregation cases and have pledged to do all within our power to make this decision meaningful in our respective communities. We here re-dedicate ourselves to achieving an harmonious and peaceful implementation of this decision.

At the 44th General Assembly of the Union, the Union pledged "support to the principle of equal housing opportunities for all and urges the members of its constituent congregations to follow non-segregated practices in the selling, buying, and leasing of residential housing." The past two years have focused new attention on the grave problems involved in the spreading pattern of racial segregation in private housing in the North as well as the South. Because housing underlies all other aspects of race relations, this pattern of segregated housing threatens to cancel out many of the gains which have been made in civil rights in the past few years and, also, to invalidate the spiritual values professed by our religious heritage.

In this spirit, we urge appropriate legislation by national, state, and local government to assure equality of opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, religion, or national ancestry. We particularly commend those states and local communities which have adopted effective legislation to provide equality in private as well as public housing.

We call upon our congregations to study this problem of housing discrimination as it affects their own communities and states, to examine the moral imperatives of Judaism, and to translate these imperatives into concrete action to remove the unjust barriers which men have created against their fellow men. Specifically, we urge members of our congregations to welcome persons as neighbors irrespective of race, religion or national ancestry.

In this holy task, we pledge our cooperation to all those forward-looking religious, racial, and civic groups who share our concern in realizing the goal of equality which is basic to the democratic heritage and the Judeo-Christian tradition.