

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION

AIDS

1988

Whereas AIDS has become a societal and human problem of great gravity and magnitude;

Whereas serious misinformation and hysteria exist regarding the disease's causes and methods of transmission;

Whereas educational programs for youth regarding healthy sexual activity and the perils of illegal drug use are crucial in combating the continued spread of AIDS;

Whereas public funding is currently inadequate to combat AIDS;

Whereas people with AIDS are additionally victimized by a society that stigmatizes and ostracizes them;

Whereas Judaism advocates maximum efforts to combat disease, heal and care for the sick, and offer spiritual sustenance to all ill people;

Therefore, be it resolved that the members of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association:

Pledge to work diligently to include people with AIDS in all facets of congregational and communal life, in order that they not suffer the undeserved pain of isolation, exclusion and stigmatization;

Pledge to work within their congregations and call on the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot to expand and deepen educational efforts to:

- provide congregations with up-to-date information about transmission modes of the disease
- instruct our youth on healthy sexual practice and the dangers of illegal drug use
- sensitize our constituency to the fact that the mitzvah of Bikkur Holim (visitation of the sick) devolves not only upon rabbis but upon all Jews. Visiting the sick means showing our concern by offering the precious gift of personal presence; the visitor relieves the ill person of some of his/her loneliness, fear and pain.

Pledge to teach the obligation of Bikkur Holim through personal example. We recognize our responsibility to give support and counsel to people with AIDS and to make ourselves available to their families, loved ones, and health-care providers.

Call upon all government agencies to spare no funding or institutional resource in the search for improved medical treatment and the ultimate cure of AIDS.

Our tradition demands no less than our most assiduous efforts in all of the above areas.