

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION

ETHIOPIAN JEWRY

1991

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association expresses its solidarity with Beta Yisrael, our Ethiopian Jewish brothers and sister. Nearly 20,000 Jews remain in Ethiopia under stressful political and economic conditions, waiting to make aliyah to Israel, to join those who have already settled in their homeland.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

We urge the government of Israel, the Jewish Agency, and world Jewry to do everything in their collective power to improve the present living conditions of Jews remaining in Ethiopia, and to facilitate their speedy exodus to Israel.

We urge that every effort be made to validate and preserve the unique Jewish heritage of Beta Yisrael even as they go through the process of absorption in Israel.

We urge rabbis and their communities to help achieve these goals by:

1. Engaging in a letter writing campaign to the office of the Prime Minister of Israel (Yitzhak Shamir) and the General Secretary of the Jewish Agency (Simcha Diniz), urging them to make Ethiopian Jewry a major priority.
2. Urging their own congressional representatives to join the Ethiopian Jewry Caucus.
3. Encouraging the dispersal of tzedakah funds to organizations such as ARNEJ, NACOEJ, and CAEJ (in Canada), which address the needs of Ethiopian Jews.
4. Encouraging their congregations to develop twinning programs through the American Association for Ethiopian Jewry (AARJ) and to sponsor educational activities to increase awareness of the plight of Ethiopian Jews.