

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION
HEALTHCARE WITHOUT HARM
1998

Whereas, humanity has been given stewardship of the Earth, which must include stewardship for human health. The sin of polluting God's universe has become intertwined with the sin of polluting the human body, an exquisite expression of God's creation. The realization that the environment is "inside" us as well as around us will help shape a revolution in the way we approach and protect public health.

And whereas, the assault on human health from environmental causes represents a deep form of violence against all that we hold sacred. A large body of evidence confirms the environmental crisis is profoundly affecting human health. There are approximately 70,000 toxic chemicals in commercial use today, less than 5% of which have been tested for links to cancer. Fewer than 1% have been tested for links to endocrine disruption in newborns and babies in utero. According to the American Cancer Society, cancer now affects one in two men and one in three women. We are participating in a vast chemical experiment on the human family without our informed consent, and with devastating results. In order to reverse this violence over the next decade, the highest religious and scientific voices must join together in defense of life.

Be it resolved that the RRA join the national Health Care Without Harm coalition to support the halting of medical waste incineration which is posing a major health crisis, and

Be it further resolved that the RRA calls upon its members to adopt hospitals in the local areas to serve as partners in achieving the goals of Health Care Without Harm.