

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association**  
**RESOLUTION**

**MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS &**  
**SETTLEMENTS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA**

1992

Whereas the current United States sponsored Middle East peace negotiations have enabled Israel for the first time to enter into direct, bilateral negotiations with its Arab neighbors and with representatives of the Palestinian people; and

Whereas these talks offer an unprecedented opportunity for Israel and its Arab neighbors to work towards a comprehensive regional peace based upon mutual recognition, secure borders, regional control, and economic cooperation; and

Whereas the contribution and ultimate success of these negotiations depend upon each party taking concrete measures to build confidence in its commitment to the peace process, and refraining from actions which undermine trust and/or diminish possibilities for compromise; and

Whereas escalating Israeli settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza diverts resources from critically-needed domestic housing and economic development, undermines negotiations on the future status of the territories, and endangers foreign assistance necessary to the absorption of new immigrants and the continuation of such immigration;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association:

1. Applauds the American Administration for its role in launching these historic peace talks;
2. Calls upon all parties to the negotiations to refrain from inflammatory rhetoric, to avoid provocative military actions, and to relocate the talks at the earliest possible stage to a mutually agreed-upon site in the Middle East;
3. Encourages our members to educate themselves and their communities regarding settlement on the occupied territories;
4. Calls upon the Israeli government to suspend voluntarily all new settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza pending negotiations regarding the interim and final status of those territories.