

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
RESOLUTION**

**REALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO THE POOR**

1992

Whereas Judaism has always viewed its obligation to assist the poor and provide for their support in dignity as tzedakah, a required act of justice, and

Whereas there is an increased tendency at all levels of governments within North American to blame the poor for their poverty and use them as scapegoats for the failure of our national government to create adequate jobs, housing and economic stability, and

Whereas this tendency to use the tiny minority of those who abuse the welfare system as an excuse for cutting aid to families with dependent children, cutting welfare expenditures for veterans, the disabled, homeless and hungry who tend to be disenfranchised within our elected system, and

Whereas the post cold war era now affords us an unprecedented opportunity to reallocate our precious financial resources away from unnecessary military expenditures to meet our increasing domestic needs therefore,

We call upon federal, state provincial and local governments to:

1. Restore cuts in welfare aid to families with dependent children and homeless assistance programs where they have been initiated, and
2. Direct money previously budgeted for costly and unnecessary military programs to fund increases in social service programs, education, subsidized housing, job development and re-training across the nation, and
3. We endorse a national program of economic conversion, whereby the expertise and commitment previously directed to the creation of technology for military ends be re-directed to focus on peaceful, domestic educational social, cultural and economic goods and services, and
4. We call upon members of the RRA and their communities to write their respective government representatives to urge the adoption of the above policy recommendations.