

Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association

RESOLUTION

FAIR TRADE

2003

Since as Reconstructionist leaders we believe in concrete actions that advance ethics and sustainability, and seek to take such actions in our own house before telling others to do likewise;

Since coffee is the second-most-widely globally traded commodity, a mainstay beverage, symbol of people meeting, and the object of major social justice and environmental efforts;

Since our basic imperative to pursue justice (Deut. 16:20) demands that we seek to remedy the abhorrent conditions and low wages common for workers in the coffee industry, among others;

Since our basic imperative to serve and maintain the Earth (Gen. 2:15) demands that we seek goods such as coffee without high costs of deforestation, pollution, and species extinction;

Since an ethical "hashgacha" system which deserves our support already exists in this industry, under the Fair Trade / Equal Exchange labels, and with wide certification as "organic" and "shade grown"

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Therefore we of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association resolve to:

1. Purchase and serve only Fair Trade, organic and shade-grown coffee at our conferences, meetings, and events.
2. Establish a Fair Trade Task Force of the Social Action Committee (Committee that Makes for Salvation), lasting through the 2006 Convention, to assist RRA staff and event planners with purchasing and implementation.
3. Make educational materials available to our members for their own communities and congregations, toward the end of establishing similar policies.
4. Urge our sister "arms" of the Reconstructionist movement, the JRF and RRC, to adopt similar policies.
5. Wherever possible, extend the Fair-Trade-only policy to tea and chocolate, and to other products as they too receive industry-wide certification.