

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION**

SANCTUARY

1985

Whereas, The Jewish people have survived for thousands of years by virtue of our commitment to a strong sense of community and social responsibility.

Whereas, The Torah mandates that we treat the alien who resides among us no differently than natives born among us. (Lev. 19:34)

Whereas, Provision of a place of refuge for those fleeing persecution or prosecution is an important Biblical injunction.

Whereas, Our history has been a history of homelessness, seeking refuge and bargaining for admission.

Whereas, Central American refugees are fleeing their countries in fear for their lives.

Whereas, The government is deporting refugees in violation of a protocol signed by the U.S. in 1968, which prohibits all signatory countries from returning refugees to their countries of origin if they can demonstrate a reasonable fear of persecution there.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The RRA supports the growing number of churches and synagogues across the country who are acting with courage and humanity on behalf of these refugees by providing them with sanctuary including transportation, housing, legal aid, bail and political and moral support.
2. That we urge our members to become educated about these issues and to raise them in their own communities.
3. That we support efforts to convince key legislators and the President to extend political refugee status to refugees from Central America who are eligible for asylum in the U.S. in accordance with the U.N. Protocols adopted by Congress as law in the Refugee act of 1980, which states that asylum should be granted persons who cannot return to their country of origin because of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, or membership in a particular social group or political opinion.
4. That we urge FRCH members to seriously consider this issue and the possibility of declaring their constituent institutions and sanctuaries.