

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association
RESOLUTION**

SOVIET JEWRY

1990

Conditions affecting Soviet Jewry have changed radically within the past year. We have seen unprecedented numbers of Soviet Jews receive permission to leave the Soviet Union. While the ultimate destination of these Jews has occasioned some debate, there is consensus that all Jews living in freedom have an obligation to support this opportunity of freedom for our Soviet brothers and sisters.

We further note that conditions for Jews remaining in the Soviet Union have changed as well. On the one hand, we note with joy the new freedom Soviet Jews have to worship, assemble, and learn as Jews. Yet we also note with alarm reports of increasingly virulent anti-Semitism within the Soviet Union.

Moreover, we note with concern the fact that the circumstances which have allowed for these changes may themselves change at any moment, and that there is therefore an urgency to this issue reflective of our traditional concerns for pikuach nefesh and pidyon shevuim.

In light of the changes affecting Soviet Jewry, the RRA states the following positions:

1. While we believe that Soviet Jews ought to have the freedom to choose their ultimate destination, we recognize that a combination of factors will dictate that many Soviet Jews, in order to leave the USSR, will go to Israel. We support this choice and urge Jews throughout the world to actively participate in the historic effort to settle Soviet Jews in our ancient homeland. We recognize the importance of this aliyah and stand fully behind it, as we stand behind the freedom of those Soviet Jews who choose to settle elsewhere.
2. We support efforts to strengthen Jewish life in the Soviet Union, and encourage our members to participate in efforts by local and national Jewish organizations to provide books, materials, and other educational supports to the Jews remaining in the Soviet Union.
3. We condemn resurgent anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, recalling how Russia under both pre-communist and communist rule has been the site of relentless anti-Jewish activity. We urge our elected officials to make clear to the Soviet leadership that they have an obligation to condemn anti-Semitism, and to act against those who through word or act participated in anti-Semitic activities.
4. We call on our membership to commit personally to the financial needs of the Soviet Jewry resettlement campaign being conducted throughout the organized Jewish community, and we call on our members to use their leadership roles to encourage communal support for this urgent need.