

**Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association  
RESOLUTION**

**"WHO IS A JEW"**

1989

The Reconstructionist Movement has always had among its guiding principles the importance of K'lal Yisrael, the unity of the Jewish people, and the centrality of Israel. Historically, Reconstructionist Jews have been in the forefront of the Zionist struggle, first to create a Jewish State and then to insure its security and prosperity. In the Resolution on Reconstructionism (June 14, 1985), the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot (FRCH) affirmed that "We are deeply secure, prospering and democratic Jewish State," and further affirmed the "acceptance of religious and cultural pluralism in Jewish life in the State of Israel." These principles were affirmed by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association on March 19, 1986 and both the RRA and FRCH expressed their commitment "to furthering the dynamic relationship between the Diaspora and Israeli Jewry, recognizing that only through mutual respect, cooperation and moral dialogue can Zionism become a means for the revitalization of Jewish civilization."

It is with tremendous concern for the unity of the Jewish people and the centrality of Israel that we express our opposition to any proposals to change the definition of "Who is a Jew" under the Law of Return or to adopt the Rabbinical Courts Law in the Knesset. Such initiatives threaten the unity of the Jewish people and the centrality of Israel at a time when these ideals are more important than ever.

We stand together with the overwhelming majority of Jews in Israel and in the Diaspora in expressing our opposition to these measures. We reject any efforts to drive a wedge between us and call for the removal of this issue from the political arena. "Who is a Jew" is not subject for political wrangling and deal making. The unique partnership between Diaspora Jewry and the Jews of Israel must be preserved. Therefore, we resolve to:

1. Communicate to the Prime Minister and other appropriate representatives of the Government of Israel our opposition to any change in the Law of Return, our opposition to the adoption of the Rabbinical Courts Law, and our opposition to any attempts to resolve the issue of "Who is a Jew" in the political arena.
2. Encourage our congregations and communal organizations to adopt similar resolutions and communicate them to the appropriate authorities.
3. Encourage letter writing and petition campaigns in our communities so that our voices will be heard.