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NCJW®

National Council of Jewish Women

mission statement

The National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW) is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

These principles are fundamental beliefs of the National Council of Jewish Women. They are basic to and inherent in all specific resolutions.

PRINCIPLE 1

Individual liberties and rights guaranteed by the Constitution are keystones of a free and pluralistic society and must be protected and preserved.

PRINCIPLE 2

Religious liberty and the separation of religion and state are constitutional principles that must be protected and preserved in order to maintain our democratic society.

PRINCIPLE 3

Human rights and dignity are fundamental and must be guaranteed to all individuals.

PRINCIPLE 4

All individuals have the right to live in a world at peace, free from violence and persecution.

PRINCIPLE 5

A democratic society and its people must value diversity and promote mutual understanding and respect for all.

PRINCIPLE 6

Equal rights and equal opportunities for all people must be guaranteed, and all forms of discrimination must be eliminated, by leveraging our diverse backgrounds, beliefs, cultures, genders, abilities, races, sexual orientations, and socio-economic statuses.

PRINCIPLE 7

Social justice efforts must be informed and guided by the leadership and experiences of communities most impacted.

PRINCIPLE 8

The continuity of the Jewish people and its heritage, and respect for and among all streams of Judaism, must be assured from generation to generation.

PRINCIPLE 9

The survival and security of the State of Israel and the establishment of a just and permanent peace are central to the Jewish people and vital to the interests of the United States.

PRINCIPLE 10

A democratic society must provide for the needs of those unable to provide for themselves.

PRINCIPLE 11

Mental and physical health, education, and human services must be affordable, coordinated, comprehensive, accessible, inclusive, and sufficiently funded.

PRINCIPLE 12

An educated and informed public is fundamental to a democratic society.

PRINCIPLE 13

The protection, preservation, and restoration of the environment is vital to a sustainable future.

PRINCIPLE 14

A democratic society depends on the collective efforts of the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors and is strengthened by the commitment and contribution of volunteers.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN WILL WORK ON BEHALF OF THE FOLLOWING PRIORITIES:

- ▶ Advance the Well-being and Status of Women
 - ▶ Advance the Well-being of Children and Families
 - ▶ Enhance the Quality of Jewish Life
 - ▶ Ensure and Advance Individual and Civil Rights
 - ▶ Support a Secure Israel and the Well-being of All Its People
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Within these priorities, the National Council of Jewish Women endorses and resolves to work for the following resolutions:

I. ADVANCE THE WELL-BEING AND STATUS OF WOMEN

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- I.1 Laws, policies, programs, and services that protect every woman from all forms of abuse, exploitation, harassment, discrimination, and violence.
- I.2 Comprehensive, affordable, accessible, quality services – including full and unbiased information about medical options – for women’s health supported by equitable and sufficient research and funding.
- I.3 Comprehensive, affordable, confidential, accessible, and equitable family planning, reproductive, sexual health, and maternal health services.
- I.4 Laws, policies, and programs that protect every woman’s right and ability to make reproductive and child bearing decisions.
- I.5 Employment laws, policies, and practices that provide equal pay and benefits for work of comparable worth and equal opportunities for advancement.
- I.6 Representation, participation, and involvement of women in all aspects of the democratic process.
- II. Environmental laws, policies, and programs that protect and promote the health and well-being of children and families.
- II.3 Quality public education for all, utilizing public funds for public schools only.
- II.4 Comprehensive services and policies that enable all children to succeed in school.
- II.5 Comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate, and inclusive sexual health education, including healthy relationships and sexual violence prevention, in public schools.
- II.6 Quality, comprehensive child care, early childhood education including universal pre-K and full day kindergarten, and school-age care programs that are affordable and accessible for all.
- II.7 Laws, policies, and employment practices that allow workers to meet both family and work responsibilities.
- II.8 Laws, policies, and programs that provide a level of services that meet basic human needs while encouraging self-sufficiency.
- II.9 Laws, policies, and programs that ensure fair pay, a living wage, and access to training and educational opportunities for all workers.
- II.10 Equitable fiscal and tax policies that ensure sufficient revenues for basic human needs and economic security.
- II.11 Quality, comprehensive, confidential, nondiscriminatory mental and physical health care coverage and services that are affordable and accessible for all.

II. ADVANCE THE WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- II.1 Laws, policies, programs, and services that protect every child from abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying, discrimination, and violence.

- II.12 Laws, policies, programs, and services that promote wellness.
- II.13 Laws, policies, programs, and services that address the needs of older adults and protect them from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.
- II.14 Research and funding for advances in medicine, public health, safety, and violence prevention.
- II.15 Laws, policies, and programs that regulate firearms and ammunition to promote gun safety and prevent gun violence.
- II.16 Consumer laws, policies, and programs that protect and enhance financial well-being, public health, and individual welfare.

III. ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF JEWISH LIFE:

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- III.1 The elimination of anti-Semitism.
- III.2 Religious and cultural freedom for all Jews.
- III.3 The advancement of religious pluralism through understanding, cooperation, and respect for and among all streams of Judaism in Israel and the Diaspora.
- III.4 The acceptance, fair treatment, and participation of all Jews, in all aspects of Jewish life, according to their individual beliefs.

IV. ENSURE AND ADVANCE INDIVIDUAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS:

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- IV.1 The enactment, enforcement, and preservation of laws and regulations that protect civil rights and individual liberties for all.
- IV.2 The protection of every female's right to reproductive choices, including safe and legal abortion, medically accurate information, access to contraception, and the elimination of obstacles that limit reproductive freedom.
- IV.3 The protection of every individual's right to privacy.
- IV.4 The recognition and protection of all children by the legal system and the provision for their unique needs.
- IV.5 Laws and policies that provide equal rights for all regardless of race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, economic status, immigration status, parenthood status, or medical condition.
- IV.6 The abolition of the death penalty.
- IV.7 The prevention and elimination of censorship of educational resources and the promotion of historically factual and scientifically accepted public information.

- IV.8 Equal opportunity for all in the public and private sectors through programs such as affirmative action.
- IV.9 Comprehensive, humane, and equitable immigration, refugee, asylum, and naturalization laws, policies, and practices that facilitate and expedite legal status and a path to citizenship for more individuals.
- IV.10 The historically accurate study of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide as part of the regular curriculum in all schools.
- IV.11 The elimination of genocide and other crimes against humanity.
- IV.12 Election laws, policies, and practices that ensure easy and equitable access and eliminate obstacles to the electoral process so that every vote counts and can be verified.
- IV.13 The recognition, prevention, and elimination of all forms of human trafficking.
- IV.14 A fully staffed diverse and independent federal judiciary where vacancies are filled in a timely manner with judges who are committed to upholding constitutional values.
- IV.15 The enactment and enforcement of comprehensive, humane, and equitable criminal justice reform, including programs and practices that build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.
- IV.16 Laws, policies, and programs that promote racial justice and eliminate systemic racism and discrimination.

V. SUPPORT A SECURE ISRAEL AND THE WELL-BEING OF ALL ITS PEOPLE:

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- V.1 Policies and programs that promote peaceful co-existence within Israel and between Israel and its neighbors.
- V.2 A two-state solution with the state of Israel, a democratic Jewish homeland, living side by side with a state of Palestine in mutual respect, peace, and security.
- V.3 Diplomatic, economic, and military assistance to Israel by the United States.
- V.4 Recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
- V.5 Efforts that counter attempts to delegitimize Israel.
- V.6 The empowerment of all women in Israel and the advancement of their status and rights.
- V.7 Policies, programs, and services that promote the well-being of all women, children, and families in Israel.
- V.8 Policies and programs in Israel that promote empowerment, pluralism, inclusion, equity, and equality for all its people in all aspects of their lives.