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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.

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

Since our founding, NCJW has advanced the cause of women's rights and equality. Honoring our history, we use the terms "women" and "woman" throughout our Resolutions. We recognize and appreciate that gender is expansive and language is often limiting; we are an inclusive home for advocates of all gender identities.

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 peaceful world, free from violence and persecution.

PRINCIPLE 5

A democratic society must value and promote diversity, inclusion, mutual understanding, and respect for all.

PRINCIPLE 6

Equal rights and opportunities for all people must be guaranteed, and all forms of discrimination must be eliminated.

PRINCIPLE 7

Every individual has the right to bodily autonomy and privacy, free from governmental, political, and religious interference in all health care decisions.

PRINCIPLE 8

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

PRINCIPLE 9

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

PRINCIPLE 10

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 11

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

PRINCIPLE 12

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

PRINCIPLE 13

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

PRINCIPLE 14

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

PRINCIPLE 15

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

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, appropriate, confidential, equitable, and quality health products and services, inclusive of family planning, reproductive, sexual, and maternal health.
- I.3 Health services based on full and unbiased medically accurate information, supported by inclusionary and scientific research and funding.
- I.4 Laws, policies, and programs that protect every person's right to make decisions about whether to have or not have children and to birth, adopt, and/or parent with dignity.
- 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. 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 and youth from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying, discrimination, harassment, and violence.
- II.2 Environmental laws, policies, and programs that protect and promote the health, safety, and well-being of children, youth, and families.

- II.3 Quality public education for all, utilizing public funds for public schools only.
- II.4 Comprehensive supports, opportunities, services, and policies that enable all children and youth to succeed in school.
- II.5 Comprehensive, inclusive, medically accurate, and age-appropriate sexual health education, including healthy relationships and sexual violence prevention, in public schools.
- II.6 Quality, comprehensive, affordable, and accessible child care, early childhood education (including universal pre-K and full-day kindergarten), and school-age programs.
- 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.
- II.9 Laws, policies, and programs that ensure fair pay, a living wage, and access to training and educational opportunities for all.
- II.10 Fair housing laws, policies, and programs that promote equal access to healthy, safe, affordable, quality housing.
- II.11 Equitable fiscal and tax policies that ensure a sufficient standard of living to meet basic human needs.
- II.12 Quality, comprehensive, confidential, appropriate, nondiscriminatory mental and physical health care coverage and services (including addiction) that are affordable and accessible for all.

- II.13 Laws, policies, programs, and services that address the needs of older adults and protect them from all forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, bullying, and violence.
- II.14 Research and funding for advances in medicine, public health, safety, and violence prevention.
- II.15 Expansion and enforcement of laws, policies, and programs that regulate firearms and ammunition, ban assault and other military-style weapons and accessories, and prevent gun violence and promote gun safety.
- II.16 Consumer laws, policies, and programs that protect and enhance financial well-being and general 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 regardless of individual identity, status, or belief.

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 person'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 and youth 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 promotion of unbiased, historically factual, and scientifically accepted public information and the prevention and elimination of censorship in educational resources.

- IV.8 Equal opportunity for all in the public and private sectors through policies and programs that support diversity, equity, and inclusion, such as affirmative action.
 - IV.9 Comprehensive, humane, and equitable immigration, refugee, and asylum laws, policies, and practices.
 - 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 – without foreign or domestic interference – safe, easy, and equitable access to the ballot 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 and the promotion of survivor-centered policies.
 - IV.14 A qualified, fair, independent, unbiased, and diverse federal judiciary with a commitment to the constitutional guarantee of equal justice for all.
 - IV.15 The enactment and enforcement of comprehensive, humane, and equitable criminal justice reform.
 - 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 negotiated 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 Efforts that counter attempts to delegitimize Israel.
 - V.5 The empowerment of all women in Israel and the advancement of their status and rights.
 - V.6 Policies, programs, and services that promote the well-being of all women, children, and families in Israel.
 - V.7 Policies and programs in Israel that promote democracy, pluralism, inclusion, empowerment, equity, and equality for all its people in all aspects of their lives.