2021 POLICY COMPENDIUM

JCPA's Policy Compendium is an encyclopedic compilation that provides overviews of the Jewish community relations network's decades of policy. Organized by issue, each section provides an overview of JCPA resolutions, making it easy to locate different topics and search for key words. For full resolution text, please see our website or contact jcpainfo@thejcpa.org.

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INTRODUCTION

The JCPA Policy Compendium is a compilation of the current policy of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs. The positions set forth in this Compendium were taken by the JCPA in Resolutions, Joint Program Plans, and Agendas for Public Affairs, and in various studies taken through the years. As new positions are adopted by the agency, they are added to this Compendium, which is posted on the JCPA website.

The Policy Compendium is not an exhaustive record of all policies ever taken by the JCPA during its more than 76-year history. That would be a massive document many thousands of pages long. We look forward to the day, no doubt soon, when technology will enable us to place the entire rich historical record of JCPA policies at our fingertips. The Policy Compendium, however, is a different document entirely. It is an authoritative record of the current positions of the JCPA.

Eliminated from the Compendium are much of the background text that provided the context for the statements but did not express policy positions. Neither does this Compendium include the full history of each position. In many instances, positions were restated, often multiple times, over the years — and policies evolved in light of changing conditions. Where a policy position was superseded by a subsequent statement on the same subject, the most recent policy statement is included in this Compendium. In several instances different aspects of the same issue were covered in subsequent years. In those situations, each policy position is included. In all instances, the year and source are noted. Where a policy position was rendered entirely moot by historical circumstances, it has been eliminated.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS CORE PRINCIPLES

Civility

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that the decline in civility in our community and broader society is a matter of urgent priority that demands we issue a Call for Civility and institute a campaign to address this urgent challenge. This campaign will convene, inspire, and empower Jewish community institutions and their leaders from across the political spectrum to engage in and model for others civil discourse on the most challenging issues. Through this effort, our institutions and leaders will engender mutual respect, shared listening and learning, and become powerful bridge builders who can assist our people to navigate future sensitive community relations challenges. (2010 Plenum)

Some policies and statements of the government of Israel can have a profound effect on—and/or inspire significant interest from—North American Jewry. Conversations on these topics can either serve as a catalyst for a breakdown in civility or can be a source of useful debate and discussion. JCPA urges that we be mindful in engaging each other on such topics, knowing that words matter in defining not only the tone of future American Jewry-Israel relations, but also the future of our relations with each other as people who share a common destiny. (2019 Delegates Assembly Amendment)

The community relations field should: model civility in our own work based on a commitment to dialogue and mutual respect for those with whom we may disagree, and swiftly condemn acts of demonization, defamation, and demagoguery (2010 Plenum); express any agreements or disagreements they may have with the actions and statements of the Israeli government, Israeli institutions, Diaspora institutions, the U.S. government, and others in the broader community in a civil manner befitting a family with legitimate disputes (2019 Delegates Assembly Amendment); mount Civil Discourse campaigns in communities throughout the country in cooperation with partner organizations; educate our community about the rich sources in our tradition that embrace civility as an ethical and moral duty and that warn of the consequences of incivility; develop resources including training modules for lay and professional leaders on conflict resolution, active listening, and respectful communication; advance programmatic and process oriented solutions for difficult communal issues that afford opportunities for disparate voices to be heard, respected, considered, and valued; examine the role of the internet and other media in the decline of civility; and develop respectful mechanisms to challenge false or defamatory communications. (2010 Plenum)

Election season has become a period of decreasing civility. Demagoguery and demonization and sometimes even violent imagery have become commonplace. The JCPA believes that civil political discourse is the key to having a knowledgeable electorate. The deterioration of political disagreement into personalized attacks or hostile argument and sometimes even violence diminishes the electoral process and discourages and alienates potential voters. The JCPA calls on candidates, parties, political organizations, corporations, unions, political action committees, and others engaging in the electoral process to focus on issues and reject campaign strategies that resort to *ad hominem* attacks, distort records, and distract from the pressing issues of the day. The community relations field should raise the issue of civility in meetings with candidates and party officials. (2011 Plenum)

Coalition Building
The JCPA believes that, at times, the actions or rhetoric of groups render them unacceptable as coalition partners, such as when groups or individuals closely associated with them have engaged in anti-Semitism or supported terror. The JCPA also recognizes that frequently the lines are less clear, and community relations agencies must determine whether to engage groups that have problematic associations or stances. In some instances engagement can lead to dialogue and improved understandings. In others, communal interests and principles are furthered by rejection of bi-lateral or even multi-lateral relations. Community relations agencies must make these determinations on case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the importance of the issue around which a coalition is formed, the size of the coalition, and the nature of the problematic activity.

Regardless of decisions regarding coalition activity, community relations agencies should: Continue to speak out forcefully and swiftly against all manifestations of bigotry and call on political, interfaith, and other leaders to do the same; utilize all available steps to address any related rise of intimidation or anti-Semitism directed against Jews. (2009 Plenum)

Boycotts
The JCPA believes the use of politically motivated boycotts and other economic measures by the organized Jewish community may not be an effective long-term strategy and may be counter-productive to Jewish interests, except in those circumstances where, upon careful consideration of all the facts and circumstances including the legal implications, there remains convincing evidence of inappropriate conduct, and where dialogue and other forms of response have failed and there remains a reasonable chance of reaching the desired result

The community relations field should encourage full investigation of claims of inappropriate conduct, quickly dispel those which are based on false premises, and utilize traditional community relations practices — such as dialogue, coalition-building and advocacy – to achieve the desired results, develop an effective media relations strategy by engaging in a long term, on-going dialogue with newspapers, radio and television stations. Such a strategy, applied consistently, will yield better and more permanent results than would flow from a boycott. JCRCs must be diligent and honest critics, pointing out factual errors, flagging inflammatory language, noting inconsistencies, writing letters, and contacting the media outlet's ombudsman as often as necessary, and encourage the U.S. Administration to use its global leadership position to discourage boycotts of Israel by other countries, academic and scientific institutions in the U.S. and around the world. (February 2003).

Civic Engagement and Volunteerism
The JCPA, recognizing the need in our nation for increased civic engagement, will encourage greater efforts, through its national and local member agencies, to engage volunteers and promote civic involvement, including direct service volunteering such as mentoring and tutoring, advocacy on issues of public policy and grass-roots community organizing. (1999 Plenum)

Extremist Rhetoric
The JCPA believes that extremist rhetoric helps create an environment that incites individuals to engage in hateful, illegal, and violent acts. At the same time, the rights of free speech and lawful dissent which are basic and indispensable in a democratic society must be protected. It is critically important that those with various views of the peace process condemn explicit hate speech, venomous language, and threatening words. It is also critically important that we provide an opportunity for dialogue among all the conflicting viewpoints and provide an atmosphere in which differences can be expressed with civility and respect.

The JCPA and community relations field are committed to work vigorously in support of efforts to condemn Jewish extremist rhetoric and violence, and to promote intra-communal dialogue. Toward that end, we will urge the full spectrum of religious institutions and organizations in Israel and the American Jewish community to consistently condemn explicit extremist rhetoric or hate speech; encourage the development of new initiatives through Israeli and American Jewish institutions, including Jewish-Jewish dialogue, to promote civility and respect for democratic values; counter any attempts to characterize an entire segment of the Jewish community as being monolithic or supportive of the kind of extremist rhetoric that can create a volatile atmosphere; encourage the teaching of Jewish traditions of mutual respect, democratic values and civility as part of the core curriculum in all Israeli and American Jewish educational institutions; urge all Jewish institutions in Israel, the United States and elsewhere to cultivate an atmosphere of civil and respectful communal discussion on issues related to the peace process and other controversial issues. (Joint Program Plan (JPP) 1996)

Provision of Kashruth Food at JCPA-Sponsored Meetings
For over 75 years, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (formerly the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council) has been committed to providing an inclusive environment where every segment of our membership could participate without compromising its core values. In that spirit, all food served at JCPA meetings has historically met the Kashruth requirements of the Orthodox Union, a veteran member agency.

In strongly reaffirming the practice of this organization, we call upon the broad spectrum of the Jewish community to ensure that the food served at meetings meets the religious requirements of every segment of their constituency. (2020 Delegates Assembly)

DOMESTIC POLICY

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Principles for Responding to a National or Global Health Crises
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs:

- Reaffirms that the Jewish community should continue to play a strong role in supporting and protecting vulnerable and at-risk communities, especially during a public health crisis or other national emergency.

- Recognizes that COVID-19 and other public health crises further expose and exacerbate existing inequities across society, and reaffirms our mission and mandate to work toward addressing and ending those inequities.
- Reaffirms our commitment to combat antisemitism, xenophobia, bigotry, and racism—which have clearly risen during the COVID-19 crisis. In addition to engaging with government and media to combat the increase in hate speech and crimes, JCPA and the field commit to supporting and expressing solidarity with all communities facing increased discrimination during such times, including, at this moment, Asian communities in America.
- Urges the federal government to adopt preemptive measures building upon lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic so that the United States and the world are well-prepared to respond swiftly to the next stages of this pandemic and future global health crises. Recommended measures include the following:
    - Fully fund and support the Centers for Disease Control and other federal entities that focus on infectious disease monitoring, preparedness, and response, including well-maintained U.S. stockpiles and production capacity for testing and essential care equipment.
    - Institute a science-driven, federal-state task force that includes experts and government official liaisons to monitor and respond to pandemics.
    - Establish nationwide ethical principles or guidelines for the allocation of limited medical resources.
    - Adopt, fund, and support a global and national approach to monitoring and responding to public health crises as pandemics do not respect borders.
- Recognizes that every public health crisis is unique, requiring flexibility and creativity in government policies and practices that promote public health, safety, and equity for all those living in the U.S.
- Urges that any legislative response to a global or national public health crisis include, but not be limited to, the following principles:
    - Ensure accessible and free testing, treatment for, and ultimately vaccination against the disease for all, regardless of income, location, disability, insurance status, or immigration status.
    - Ensure that everyone can take sick leave and leave to care for family members without risking their jobs or their paychecks.
    - Ensure that low-income workers and individuals who are economically at-risk have the assistance they need to provide for their families, including, but not limited to, hazard or bonus pay for frontline, low-income workers as well as government subsidies. This also includes extending unemployment benefits for as long as the economy has not recovered and ensuring that employees who are legitimately uncomfortable returning to work do not lose their unemployment benefits.
    - Prioritize and protect the health and safety of frontline and essential workers.
    - Prioritize protecting those confined to living in an institutional setting with little or no ability to leave, quarantine or isolate, or obtain adequate medical care. This includes long-term care facilities (such as nursing homes and shelters) and detention facilities (such as jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers).

    - Ensure sufficient availability of mental health and substance use disorder resources and professionals for those affected.
    - Focus economic relief measures first on those in greatest need: low-income and economically-vulnerable individuals, frontline and essential workers, service providers, vulnerable communities, small businesses, and nonprofits.
    - Provide emergency assistance for Internet services and electronic devices at low or no cost to all those who cannot otherwise afford or access it, ensuring equity in access to essential education resources and telehealth services.
- Believes that restrictions on government entitlements and funding of critical social safety net programs should be flexible during public health emergencies so that at-risk individuals can access life-sustaining food and health care remotely, and can use their benefits to pay for critical items. Additionally, state-level SNAP restrictions should be waived to ensure that those impacted economically can maintain continued access to nutrition. This includes providing meals to children eligible for free- and reduced-price breakfast and lunch programs.

The Jewish community relations field should:

- Utilize existing relationships with local and national partners across diverse racial, ethnic, faith and civic communities to address the needs of our communities, both the larger society and disadvantaged populations.
- Be a central address for advocacy and government relations for the Jewish community in addressing the pandemic and advocating for those at-risk and most vulnerable.
- Closely monitor and actively and visibly oppose antisemitism, xenophobia, racism, gender-based and gender identity discrimination, bigotry, and hate.
- Support and advocate for the needs of partner organizations, including local Jewish agencies, and their employees, and help them access government grant programs.
- Engage with public health and government officials to share best practices and government mandates with the community.
- Advocate, along with partner organizations, for the needs of at-risk individuals and those suffering economic vulnerability as a result of the public health crisis. (2020 Emergency Delegates Assembly)

Immigration Concerns During a Pandemic

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that people should not be penalized nor treated as criminals for seeking to come to the U.S., and should be treated with dignity and respect for their basic human rights, including health and safety. The government must ensure the protection, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic and future public health crises, of Dreamers,[1] those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED), and undocumented immigrants residing in the country. Immigrants have been on the frontlines working in essential jobs that have kept the country running during this COVID-19 crisis and must be provided with full health and safety protections, regardless of immigration status. Any effort to use the crisis to further undermine the immigration, refugee, or asylum system; to

[1] Dreamers includes both Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients as well as those who are eligible for the program but have not applied.

increase military measures at the border; or to increase immigration detention and deportation should be opposed. The government should adopt policies and practices that protect immigrant communities during this crisis, for example:

- Release all migrants from immigration detention, except those who pose an immediate and specific public safety threat (e.g., those who have committed violent crimes in their home countries or the U.S.). This would mitigate the significant health risk posed by detention, not only to detainees and staff, but also to the general public. The majority of detainees do not present a threat to public safety and should be released to community sponsors on recognizance, on their own recognizance, under orders of supervision, or to U.S. shelters.
- Decriminalize unauthorized border crossings by repealing Section 1325, Title 8 of the U.S. Code, which makes it a federal misdemeanor to enter the U.S. without authorization, and Section 1326, which makes it a felony, punishable by up to two years in prison, to reenter the country without permission. This would make unauthorized entry and reentry into the country a civil offense handled solely by the immigration system, rather than a federal crime.[2] This would help alleviate overcrowding and slow the spread of the virus.
- Suspend Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) interior enforcement activities, including ICE raids, interior checkpoints, and all deportations, except to address an immediate and specific public safety threat. These enforcement operations impede access to critical care for immigrant communities and interfere with access to medical care in border regions.
- End immigration enforcement activities at hospitals, clinics, houses of worship, and other sensitive locations, such as food distribution sites and emergency shelters, that are critical for those impacted by COVID-19 or any future health crisis.
- Ensure the inclusion of all immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, in any health and economic measures related to the crisis, regardless of immigration status. Any measure that excludes immigrants increases the economic and public health risks for the whole country.

The Jewish community relations field should educate the public, and in partnership with immigrant communities, advocate for the measures listed above. Support agencies and organizations, both Jewish and non-Jewish, that serve immigrant communities. Reach out to local immigrant communities and the organizations serving them about any urgent needs they may have and ways our institutions can be most helpful. (2020 Emergency Delegates Assembly)

Criminal Justice Reform During a Public Health Crisis

In the context of the current pandemic crisis and in any similar future crises, the Jewish community relations field should work with organizations and coalitions, including those representing affected communities, to support policies and take action: To reduce significantly the population of incarcerated individuals sufficient to provide for adherence to CDC guidelines

[2] U.S.C. § 1325 and § 1326 violations make up 65 percent of all criminal prosecutions in federal court. These laws enable the "zero tolerance" family separation policy, the "Operation Streamline" mass criminal trials, and, increasingly, the prosecution of asylum seekers found between Ports of Entry. Immigrants may still be subject to detention and/or deportation under the civil enforcement system, even if these laws are repealed. There is no evidence that criminal prosecutions deter migration. Click here for a fact sheet about decriminalization.

in the context of the crisis, both within the facilities and in the general community, including by releasing segments of the existing population (e.g., by age, health condition, individuals in jail pre-trial or due to technical parole violations, or nearness to conclusion of their sentence) and by taking actions to avoid increasing the population (e.g., through elimination of retaining individuals solely due to the failure to pay cash bail, through elimination of detaining individuals due to technical parole violations, through changes in policing with respect to detention of individuals engaged solely in petty crimes, or similar actions); To provide reentry support for essential needs and to prevent recidivism, such as through government programs applicable to those who are released from incarceration, including housing, healthcare (including mental health and substance use disorder treatment), food, and other life necessities, including waiving any restrictions on funding for those programs with respect to those with criminal convictions; and To provide essential hygiene and medical care for those working or remaining in incarceration institutions sufficient to meet guidelines and requirements adopted by the Center for Disease Control and other government authorities (including where those guidelines and requirements are specific to non-incarceration situations.)

The Jewish community relations field should work with organizations and coalitions, including those representing affected communities, to support policies and associated activities subsequent to the pandemic crisis or other future similar crises that consider whether the actions taken during the crisis should be retained or modified for the period following the crisis. (2020 Emergency Delegates Assembly)

Voting Rights and Elections During a Public Health Crisis

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that safe, fair, and accessible elections are a core component of a strong, thriving democracy. The federal government is responsible for protecting voting rights and providing funding to assist states and localities to adapt their voting systems to meet today's challenges. States and localities must move expeditiously to modify their voting systems to ensure maximal citizen participation in this election and future votes. All measures that impede voting should be eliminated and support should be provided for those who may need assistance.

The Jewish community relations field should:

- Support best practices and innovative efforts that enable people to exercise their right to vote without risking their health and safety during this pandemic and afterward;
- Work with political and civic leaders of both parties to ensure bipartisan support for free and fair elections and voting rights;
- Work with organizations, partners, and coalitions to support policies such as: Sufficient federal funding, estimated by some experts to be at least $4 billion, for election assistance to enable states to offer voters a comprehensive range of safe options for voting, including at least those listed below; Universal no excuse vote-by-mail with self-sealing, postage paid return envelopes. Ballots should automatically be mailed to all registered voters; Early in-person voting; Adequate funding for the U.S. Postal Service, which is critical for vote-by-mail; Expanded voter registration options, including online and same-day voter registration; Prohibitions on polling place adjustments that disproportionately impact minority or vulnerable populations; Provision for safe in-person voting options to accommodate disabled voters and voters who lack the ability to receive or send mail,

allowing for social distancing and accommodating voter surges to ensure both voters and poll workers are protected; Voter education campaigns to educate voters on any changes and to combat disinformation; and Elimination of any photo identification requirements or witness signature or notary requirements.

- Develop and implement voter registration drives, voter and elections protection efforts, and nonpartisan Get Out the Vote campaigns to encourage both the Jewish community and general public vote in elections; and
- Work in partnership with communities disproportionately impacted by the novel coronavirus to make certain that those communities have maximum access to and participation in the electoral process. (2020 Emergency Delegates Assembly)

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Protecting Democratic Pluralism

The JCPA believes that the pluralistic fabric of our society demands respect for the religious and secular views of all segments of our society, including those with strongly held religious views. The religion or lack thereof of an individual should never be a factor in a person's qualifications for elective or appointive office. Vigorous advocacy in support of democratic pluralistic principles is in the best interest of the American tradition and should in no way denigrate the value of any voice, religious or otherwise. Individual freedoms and safeguards from discrimination and proselytization should never be diluted or traded for support on other matters of conviction or concern. Individuals have the right to freedom from unwarranted government intrusion into matters of personal religious conviction and a right to seek equal protection, including through the judiciary. The pluralistic fabric of our society demands that individuals, especially those acting in an official public capacity, never impose personal religious views on others.

The community relations field should educate about the importance of democratic pluralism, the American system of checks and balances, and the importance of protecting Constitutional freedoms; Work independently and in coalitions to protect pluralism, the independence of the judiciary, and the scientific process; and work independently and in coalitions to ensure that government bodies and legislation continue to protect individual religious beliefs without preferential treatment for any one religious perspective. (2006 Plenum)

Voting Rights

The Jewish people's commitment to voting rights is rooted in our sacred obligation to pursue justice, in our historical experiences, and in our commitment to cherished rights. A 2011 Jewish Council for Public Affairs resolution on elections began with the core premise that "The cornerstone of democracy is the election process." Unfortunately, the integrity of the United States' election process is challenged by the systematic disenfranchisement of key segments of the voting population. It is the duty of all who cherish democracy to ensure that all eligible citizens are afforded the opportunity to vote and have their votes counted.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs:

- Affirms the essential nature of the right to vote for all eligible Americans and calls on Congress to adopt legislation to: Modernize the Voting Rights Act's pre-clearance formula; Protect voters from the types of voting changes likely to deter people from voting, including those most likely to discriminate against people of color and language minorities, including voter identification laws; and Require jurisdictions to make voting changes public and transparent; and, recognizing that not all voting practices that stymie voting access are grounded in, or have disparate impact with respect to race, color or language minority status—and to the extent that they are not—they do not give rise to claims under the Voting Rights Act, these flaws in the nation's electoral system also demand attention. Response to *Shelby County* must be the beginning, not the end, of urgently needed reforms directed at protecting voter access to the polls and providing for more effective election administration.
- Calls on state legislatures to remove restrictive barriers to voting by measures such as instituting internet voter registration, early voting and no-reason absentee voting, and to prohibit local clerks from removing voters from the poll books except upon actual knowledge that the voter has moved to another jurisdiction or is deceased.
- Opposes actual voter fraud and supports the prosecution of those who commit such acts.

The Jewish community relations field should: Work in partnership with impacted communities to protect the right to vote for all eligible citizens; Engage with state election officials to ensure the integrity of access to voting and seek, as well, to address existing voting practices that limit voting access; Oppose measures that have the intent or effect of unfairly limiting the right to vote, for example through reduced locally accessible polling locations, onerous voter identification laws, curtailed early voting, or other measures; In places where photo identification is required for voting, support measures to assist all eligible voters in obtaining necessary identification. (Plenum 2017)

The Voting Rights Act is responsible for much of the progress America has achieved towards eliminating racial discrimination in voting; literacy tests, grandfather clauses, and "good character tests" were all made illegal by the Voting Rights Act. The VRA is critically important to ensuring that voters and communities of color have equal and unfettered access to the political process. The JCPA fully supports the VRA's robust application to the end of eliminating racial discrimination in voting and supports the HAVA's protection for voters to have fully accessible polling facilities. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) is similarly aimed at giving voters the basic rights and protections they need to cast a ballot and have their votes count. Voters with disabilities and language minority voters have important legal rights under the VRA and HAVA. (2011 Plenum)

The Voting Rights Act is considered one of the most effective civil rights laws in our nation's history. This legislation was designed to protect the political rights of minorities who had effectively been barred from voting. Nothing could be more threatening to the health of a representative society than to prohibit specific groups or factions from participating in the democratic process. The achievement of responsible government, responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people, is only possible through citizen participation in the electoral process. Its extension is essential to our national progress toward economic and social justice. (JPPs of 1974-1975, 1975-1976, 1981-1982, 2006 Plenum)

JCPA believes that state and local governments must seek to improve the election process to insure that all votes are counted and that all persons wishing to vote are given a meaningful opportunity to do so. Toward that end, the JCPA calls for the elimination of punch card ballot systems and other outmoded equipment and replacement with accurate, reliable, and verifiable modern equipment; federal financial assistance to states for the modernization of voting equipment; consideration of any proposal that encourages and facilitates the exercise of franchise, including but not limited to extended polling hours, recruiting additional poll workers and enhanced training and education for poll workers, use of the Internet, and/or mail-in ballots, provided that appropriate protections can be implemented to minimize the risk of fraud; adoption of uniform standards for ballots, voting procedures, registration and vote counting; development of workable mechanisms for prompt resolution of voting-day, election-related problems; review of federal legislation relating to presidential elections, particularly legislation setting deadlines for states to certify electors to qualify for "safe harbor" protection, and setting the date for electors to vote, in order to determine whether such laws remain appropriate or require modification given modern communication and travel capabilities. (2001 Plenum)

Expanding Voter Access

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: Record voter turnout demonstrates that the election administration changes necessitated by the pandemic, including, but not limited to, expanded vote by mail, should be made permanent to encourage Americans' robust participation in democracy; Recent voter suppression efforts are a disservice to democracy with particularly negative impacts on Black, Indigenous, Latinx, disabled, transgender,[3] low-income, young, and elderly voters; Comprehensive solutions at the federal, state, and local levels are needed to combat voter suppression, particularly among voters of color; Changes to election administration can have a discriminatory, suppressive effect on access to the ballot, even if there is no intent to discriminate; Efforts to suppress the will of voters, based on the discredited narrative of widespread voter fraud pushed by some leaders at the state and national levels, are on the rise and include elements of violence, white supremacy, and antisemitism.

The Jewish community relations field should: Advocate at the state and federal level to pass legislation to make voting more accessible, consistent with existing JCPA's voting- and elections-related resolutions, including, but not limited to, those passed in 2001, 2006, 2011, 2017, and 2020; Advocate at the federal level for increased funding to states to invest in election security, election administration and modernization, and efforts to make voting easier; Advocate at the state level to oppose efforts to suppress the vote; Develop relationships with county and state election administrators to address issues and questions and increase confidence in the election system; Educate our communities about voter suppression efforts and oppose all efforts to spread misinformation about widespread voter fraud, for which there is no credible evidence. (2021 Delegates Assembly)

[3] https://transequality.org/issues/voting-rights

Elections
It is crucial that voters have a calm place in which to cast their ballot free from harassment, intimidation, and campaigning. Respecting the need for appropriate voter challenge and poll monitoring measures, the JCPA opposes those measures that create a hostile, confrontational, or discriminatory environment for voters. The increasing presence of active polling place challengers and watchers creates a threat to this hallowed civic process if the right to challenge is abused. Voter challenges are formal challenges lodged by political operatives or private citizens to the eligibility of persons presenting themselves to vote, either at the polls or prior to Election Day. Unfortunately, especially in the emotionally heated environment of a hotly contested election, these efforts can go awry, crossing the line into voter intimidation, discrimination, or vote suppression. (2011 Plenum)

Civility During Elections
The JCPA believes that civil political discourse is the key to having a knowledgeable electorate. The deterioration of political disagreement into personalized attacks or hostile argument and sometimes even violence diminishes the electoral process and discourages and alienates potential voters. The JCPA calls on candidates, parties, political organizations, corporations, unions, political action committees, and others engaging in the electoral process to focus on issues and reject campaign strategies that resort to ad hominem attacks, distort records, and distract from the pressing issues of the day. The community relations field should raise the issue of civility in meetings with candidates and party officials. (2011 Plenum)

Voter Registration
JCPA supports modernizing the registration system to eliminate unnecessary bureaucratic processes, save states money, ease burdens on election officials, and simplify the process for voters. The community relations field should support measures that enable automatic registration when citizens become eligible to vote or interact with government agencies and that allow transfers of registration on Election Day upon proof of precinct residence. The JCPA believes that competent, well-trained poll workers are essential to protect the rights of voters and facilitate the voting process. The community relations field should support measures that ensure regular training and testing of poll workers to ensure competence. (2011 Plenum)

Redistricting
JCPA believes that impartial redistricting policies would help ensure that redistricting occurs in a manner that will not be unnecessarily favorable to any political party, and can improve the likelihood that minorities will continue to have adequate representation. JCPA supports measures to ensure that redistricting efforts are implemented in a manner that does not systematically negate any racial/ethnic group, socio-economic class or political ideology. (2011 Plenum)

Voting After a Criminal Conviction
The JCPA has consistently supported and reiterates its support for the automatic restoration of voting rights to people released from prison. (2011 Plenum)

Saturday Voting
JCPA opposes the scheduling of caucuses on Saturdays and believes that Saturday elections should be avoided. (2011 Plenum)

Campaign Spending

The JCPA has a longstanding policy in favor of campaign finance reform, including banning soft money, making the airwaves more accessible to candidates and ending or limiting other abuses, provided they are consistent with the First Amendment. The dramatic increase in money injected into elections and the increasing secrecy surrounding these transactions is a cause for great concern. The decision in Citizens United exacerbates this problem, allowing virtually unfettered corporate funding of independent political broadcasts in candidate elections as protected speech under the First Amendment. The JCPA supports robust public disclosure laws to ensure that elections reflect the will of the people, rather than financial relationships. Such laws promote transparency. In particular, JCPA should urge Congress to pass legislation that mandates full disclosure of corporate and non-individual contributions and expenditures.

The JCPA is committed to the fair interpretation and enforcement of federal campaign finance laws by the Federal Election Commission (FEC). Serious study should be made of the role of special interest money in elections, and the ability of public financing of elections to mitigate any corrosive influence it may have. Such reforms could help ensure that elections revolve around ideas to improve and strengthen our democracy. The JCPA urges an open debate of the issues involved, enabling our community and the nation to evaluate the appropriate measures for reform that would strengthen our democratic process.
(2011 Plenum)

The JCPA welcomes campaign finance reform, including banning soft money, making the airwaves more accessible to candidates and ending or limiting other abuses, provided they are consistent with the First Amendment. Without endorsing any particular legislative formulation, the JCPA urges an open debate of the issues involved, to enable our community and the nation to evaluate appropriate measures for reform that will strengthen our democratic process. (2001 Plenum)

Washington, D.C. Statehood

The JCPA supports a 1985 amendment that allows citizens of the District of Columbia voting representation in Congress. (JPP, 1984-1985)

Federal Judicial Nominations

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: The administration of justice by the judiciary branch is a cornerstone of American democracy. Thus, lifetime appointments on the federal bench should be filled by fair, independent, and diverse individuals proven to be qualified and committed to protecting civil liberties and constitutional rights, including but not limited to reproductive justice, religious equality, and civil rights. After careful consideration and deliberation, the president must nominate and the Senate must confirm qualified judicial nominees who reflect the diversity of the American public. The Senate must ensure that federal judges are impartial arbiters of justice without partisan agendas. The Senate Judiciary Committee should wait to hold hearings on judicial nominees until after the American Bar Association's (ABA) Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary has completed its non-partisan evaluation of professional qualifications, including experience, integrity and temperament, and should only approve nominees who are determined to be qualified by the ABA.

The Jewish community relations field should: Work with state and local partners to educate the community on the essential role of the courts in our justice system and advocate for a process that will result in appointment to federal judgeships of diverse individuals dedicated to upholding civil liberties and constitutional rights; Familiarize themselves with federal judicial nominees affecting their communities and express any concerns and questions regarding the nominee to the JCPA and senators; and Educate the community on the detrimental effects of federal judges who are not qualified and/or promote partisanship over justice and equity. (2020 Delegates Assembly)

Court Stripping

The JCPA believes that court stripping proposals, if enacted, would create dangerous precedents in the areas of equal protection, separation of powers, and due process. The principle of judicial review has been fundamental to the separation of powers since Marbury v. Madison, which recognized the necessity for judicial protection of citizens from legislative and executive overreaching. Our system of government, with its checks and balances, depends upon an independent judiciary to ensure that all legislation complies with the values in the Constitution.

The community relations field should educate the public on the negative effects of court stripping proposals; and, Oppose legislation to diminish the separation of powers through court-stripping measures. (2005 Plenum)

The Census

The JCPA supports the use of statistical sampling as a reliable and legitimate means of supplementing direct enumeration in the preparation of the Census, to ensure that all segments of the American population are equally represented (October 1998). The JCPA will press for the funding needed to produce adjusted figures, using scientific sampling, for non-apportionment purposes and for changes to census law to allow the Census Bureau to prepare and use the most accurate and complete census figures for all purposes. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Military

The JCPA believes that the pluralistic fabric of our society demands that officers and senior enlisted personnel in the military, including those working and studying at military academies, do not proselytize within the chain of command or otherwise seek to impose personal religious views on others.

The community relations field should closely track the implementation of the Air Force interim religious guidelines to ensure: Increased awareness and respect for cultural and religious differences; adequate safeguards against coercive proselytizing and improper sectarian prayer at mandatory and official ceremonies and events; notice about rights, responsibilities, and limitations under the guidelines; Training for chaplains, officers, and cadets toward the establishment of a climate of mutual respect and acceptance of differences in worship and faith traditions; and to ensure, a secure grievance procedure and appropriate remedies to violations of the guidelines. (2006 Plenum)

Religion and Politics

The Jewish community relations field should assert vigorously our profound belief that there are issues that must be beyond the reach of government. The separation of religious dogma from

politics is incumbent upon not only religious groups and their spokesmen, but also upon public officials, candidates for public office, and political parties. They too, are called upon to avoid entangling the religious and political mainstreams of American life. (JPP 1985)

Science and Politics
The JCPA believes that science and medicine must remain independent from religious, political, and ideological interference including the funding and conduct of research, appointments to governmental advisory boards, the relationship between patient and health care provider, and the availability of legal health services and medications.

The community relations field should work independently and in coalitions to protect pluralism, the independence of the judiciary, and the scientific process; Work independently and in coalitions to ensure that government bodies and legislation continue to protect individual religious beliefs without preferential treatment for any one religious perspective. (2006 Plenum)

Rule of Law
The JCPA believes that: Elected and appointed governmental officials should comply with court decisions which declare rights under the Constitution or which seek to enforce such rights, regardless of such official's religious or personal beliefs or they should resign or rescue themselves from the particular matter in question; The failure of elected and appointed governmental officials to comply with such court decisions weakens the institution of the judiciary in the eyes of the public and, thereby, the public's belief in the rule of law in this country; The failure of elected and appointed governmental officials to comply with such court decisions gives aid and comfort to those groups who believe that they need not abide by the authority of the judicial system in this country; Congress should not abet or exacerbate such sentiments by prohibiting or interfering with enforcement of judicial decisions which declare rights under the Constitution or laws enacted by the United States Congress or which seek to compel compliance with rights declared under the Constitution or by laws enacted by the United States Congress.

The community relations field should: Educate about the importance of the rule of law as cornerstones of our democratic and pluralistic society; Work in coalition with other civil liberties and religious groups to explore and implement strategies that will protect the rule of law; Continue respectful dialogue with those in the Jewish community and the non-Jewish community who hold views that differ with the consensus positions of the Jewish community on issues such as civil rights or church state separation; Oppose legislative efforts that would weaken the rule of law by interfering with enforcement of judicial orders including pending federal legislation that would prohibit the expenditure of federal funds to enforce the decision of the federal court in the Alabama Ten Commandments case. (2004 Plenum)

Term Limits
The JCPA opposes term limits as an infringement on the rights of citizens to elect officials of their choice. This position applies to elected officials at the national, state, and local levels. (JPP 1995-1996)

Nonprofit Elections Activity

The JCPA believes further restrictions on the advocacy role of charitable nonprofits are unnecessary and would harm the important advocacy role that nonprofits play. Existing restrictions under Section 501(c) of the IRS code allow for adequate oversight of tax exempt organizations ensuring that such activities do not extend beyond the "substantial amount" limit in current law; additional limitations on donor-advised funds, such as increased administrative or financial requirements, or a limitation on "board-size" or governance structure, are not necessary; and that the tax code should be modified to allow more Americans to benefit from incentives for charitable contributions including deductions for non-itemizers, to remove disincentives arising from the application of the alternative minimum tax, and to add provisions to allow an individual to make donations that are not subject to income tax directly from their individual retirement accounts to a charity. (2006 Plenum)

CIVIL RIGHTS AND DISCRIMINATION

Overview

The JCPA believes that the Jewish community must broaden its focus from viewing civil rights and individual liberties as matters falling exclusively within the purview of the federal branches of government. Important battle lines are being drawn state-by-state, as well as locally, on matters of vital concern to our interests and moral imperatives.

Efforts to amend the federal or state constitutions and statutes, or local ordinances to narrow the rights of individuals, or to strip courts of authority to consider various types of civil rights claims, pose a profound danger to civil rights and liberties. Often politically motivated, these efforts threaten to undermine the very concept of separation of powers. Even subjects which we might not necessarily endorse substantively often need protection from the 'tyranny of the majority', which is one of the most important functions served by the judicial branch at both the federal and state levels.

The Community Relations Field should make a high priority of working across community lines to address state and local, as well as federal, civil rights issues; Actively support civil rights coalitions on matters where there is a consensus communal position. (2007 Plenum)

Racial Justice Within the Jewish Community

In the current climate of emboldened discrimination and significant challenges to racial equity in society, it is critical that JCPA reaffirm and recommit to the pursuit of racial equity and justice. We recognize that this pursuit is not just a matter of conscience or relations with other communities. Our own racially diverse community of black, Latino, Asian, Mizrahi, Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews has a stake in pursuing racial justice.

Therefore, JCPA resolves to establish a Task Force on Racial Equity to study and promote steps our institutions can take to pursue racial justice and inclusion within the Jewish community. (2018 Plenum)

Race and Ethnicity
The JCPA reaffirms its longstanding commitment to racial justice and equal opportunity. So long as discrimination persists, the JCPA believes that properly structured affirmative action policies that consider race as one among many relevant factors remain necessary to correct injustice. However, other comprehensive measures also are needed to increase equality of opportunity. These include strong anti-poverty programs, attention to issues of criminal justice, including an end to gratuitous racial profiling, and concerted focus on improving the quality of public education in high poverty areas (Agenda 2000-2001)

Racial Stereotypes, Epithets and Rhetoric
Recognizing that damaging racial stereotypes, epithets, and rhetoric continue to plague the Native American community, perpetuating cultural bias and prejudice, the JCPA supports the battle to end the use of degrading images of Native people, their symbols, and cultural and religious traditions in the names and nicknames of sports teams, in logos, and mascots. (2000 Plenum)

African American Heritage
In light of continuing racial tension in our nation, as well as widespread societal ignorance of African-American history and culture, there is a critical need for more comprehensive presentation, preservation, and recognition of the contributions of African-Americans within American society. The JCPA resolves to support efforts to acknowledge the fundamental injustice and inhumanity of slavery in the United States; memorialize, in the nation's capital, the lives of those who suffered and perished as a consequence of slavery in the United States; and promote cultural understanding of African American heritage to further enhance social justice and racial harmony. Furthermore, it resolves to seek a greater understanding of these historical realities of American society by working in coalition with other religious, racial, and ethnic groups in supporting the establishment of memorials, museums, and monuments that promote cultural understanding, social justice, and racial harmony; and commemorate the decision of the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* by encouraging and promoting educational programs for adults and the development of a curriculum in schools, to address the issues raised in this resolution. (2004 Plenum)

The JCPA recognizes the importance of the need to acknowledge and address the barbarity of the transatlantic slave trade. We pledge to examine, with our national and local member agencies and with our coalition partners, the nature of the African American community's concern for national and international responses to the lingering effects of slavery and to determine how the Jewish community should respond. At the same time, we commit to working with partners to ensure that the anti-racism movement is not misused to advance an agenda that targets Israel and promotes anti-Semitism, as was the case during the UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa. (2002 Plenum)

Affirmative Action
The JCPA believes affirmative action is an important safeguard of racial equality, and should be supported as long as race is one of many factors, quotas are not utilized, and only individuals judged to be qualified are accepted or rewarded and programs are narrowly tailored to achieve diversity; There is continued need for numerical data and statistical procedures to measure and

help assure the effectiveness of affirmative action programs, so long as those data are not used to establish numerical quotas; The Supreme Court was correct in stating that "the state has a compelling interest" in ensuring diverse students bodies, using race as one factor among others in university admissions.

The community relations field should: Oppose legislative initiatives or popular referenda that seek to ban affirmative action programs that are consistent with the position previously established by JCPA; Work with broad and diverse coalitions to increase grassroots support for affirmative action programs that are consistent with the position previously established by JCPA and oppose affirmative action bans that target such programs; Continue to educate the Jewish community about affirmative action and its importance from both civil rights and Jewish values perspectives; Reassure our partners in other ethnic communities — especially the African American community and other constituencies that support affirmative action — that we favor affirmative action programs, as outlined in JCPA policy. (2004 Plenum)

The JCPA supports affirmative action by both government and the private sector that provide such outreach remedies as: compensatory education, training, and job counseling; intensive recruitment of qualified and qualifiable individuals, using not only traditional but also public and private resources that reach members of disadvantaged groups; and ongoing review of established job and admissions requirements to assure that they are performance related and free of bias. While opposing quotas as inconsistent with principles of equality, we recognize the need for numerical data and statistical procedures to measure and help assure the effectiveness of affirmative action programs. (June 1973, amended in 1975 and 1981, reaffirmed April 1995)

Civil Rights of Gays and Lesbians

While the agency has taken no position on questions pertaining to homosexual life-styles, the JCPA opposes efforts to subjugate or deny essential liberties to members of any minority group in the United States. Therefore, in addition to supporting the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), the JCPA supports passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), which would create a federal prohibition against employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The JCPA also supports other legislative efforts at the state and local levels that would prevent discrimination in housing, public accommodation, and education. Exemptions designed to protect the right of religious institutions to carry out their religious purposes should be incorporated into all such legislation. The JCPA opposes efforts to repeal state statutes that protect individuals from discrimination based on sexual orientation. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations is opposed to discrimination against any individual. Jewish law, however, prohibits homosexual activity, and we cannot join in a statement or initiative that could be interpreted to imply otherwise.*

Gender Identity Discrimination

The JCPA supports state and federal legislation that would extend civil rights protections to individuals based on their real or perceived gender identity or expression. As with legislation such as the Employment Non Discrimination Act, we support the inclusion of a carefully drawn exemption for religious institutions. We encourage support for legislation that would extend civil

rights protections to individuals based on their real or perceived gender identity and expression. (2008 Plenum)

Sexual Orientation Discrimination
A fundamental teaching of our tradition is that each human being is created in the image of the Almighty. Deriving from this central teaching is the premise that a society that is committed to equal rights, justice, and opportunity is one that is most conducive to Jewish security and creative Jewish life.

This core principle informs the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council's longstanding and deeply-held position in opposition to discrimination, based on race, religion, national origin, gender, and handicap, in the work place, public accommodation, housing, education, and other public and private sector settings.

Therefore, NJCRAC opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodation, and education; supports legislation to bar discrimination in these areas; supports the incorporation in such legislation of exemptions, that may already exist in other civil-rights laws, designed to protect the right of religious institutions to carry out their religious purposes. (1992 Plenum)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America abstains on this issue. We are opposed to discrimination and vigilantism against any individual or group. The Halacha, however, prohibits homosexual activity, and we cannot join in a statement that could be misinterpreted to imply otherwise. Several community member agencies also abstained.*

Sexual Orientation Discrimination in the Miliary
JCPA believes that gay, lesbian, and bisexual personnel should be allowed to openly serve in all branches of the military service subject to the same rules of military conduct that apply to all those who serve. We further believe that any revision of existing policy should involve thorough consultation with military leaders in order to ensure effective implementation.

The community relations field should advocate for policies and programs including repeal of the "don't ask, don't tell" law so that lesbian, gay, and bisexual Americans can serve openly in the military and foster dialogue about this issue with those who hold opposing viewpoints while building and participating in coalitions that advocate for repeal of the 'don't ask, don't tell' law and for policies and programs that will allow lesbian and gay Americans to openly serve openly in the military, without discrimination. (2010 Plenum)

HIV/AIDS Discrimination
The JCPA supports the removal of HIV from the immigration restriction list. The Jewish community relations field supports federal and state legislation that includes anti-discrimination provisions and increased federal funding for research, voluntary blood testing, counseling and other relevant serves to all affected populations and is opposed to mandatory HIV testing. (JPP 1994-1995)

Workplace Religious Freedom Act
Legislation to protect religious liberty in the workplace — the Workplace Religious Freedom Act — is a priority of the organized Jewish community. This measure, intended to assure that employers have a meaning obligation to accommodate their employee's religious practices by the restoring religious accommodation provision of the 1972 amendment to the 1964 Civil Rights Act to the weight Congress originally intended and that the JCPA supports. (JPP 1997-1998, Agenda 1999-2000, Agenda 2000-2001)

Inclusion and Disabilities
The JCPA recognizes the inherent dignity within every person created in God's image; believes in the imperative to work towards the full participation and inclusion of people with disabilities in Jewish life and that all members of the Jewish community share the responsibility of achieving that goal; urges all member organizations to draw attention to the abilities of people with disabilities not to be discriminated against in: hiring, promotion, and retention at all levels of work; recognizes all people with disabilities are entitled to inclusive educational opportunities; affirms the importance of ensuring people with disabilities can achieve independence and autonomy to the greatest extent possible and that people with disabilities should play a central role in the design and implementation of the support they receive; recognizes the financial challenges that many families with members who have disabilities face and the importance of supporting these families with appropriate public and private resources.

The community relations field should: Advocate that members of the Jewish community who have disabilities have access to and within community facilities, camps, agencies, schools, and places of worship; Call upon the United States Senate to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities;[4] Review the Convention [on the Rights of People with Disabilities] and use it as an educational tool to raise awareness and to change attitudes towards individuals with disabilities; Call upon the U.S. Congress to fund federal programs which support people with disabilities; Conduct disability education, awareness-raising campaigns, and training in order to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities; Help to create the conditions that expect, encourage and support individuals with disabilities to participate in all aspects of Jewish community life, organizations and governance; Plan for and include both children and adults with disabilities in the programming and outreach of the Community Relations Councils to the degree it is fair and appropriate; Recommend that Jewish communities create an accessibility study and consult with people with disabilities and caregivers in order to plan and implement physical, communication, programmatic or schedule changes to Jewish community institutions; Develop relationships with other community organizations that support people with disabilities so that opportunities and areas for cooperation, volunteering and education may be explored, enhanced and actualized; Support advocacy by its member organizations for public policies, programs and funding toward the goal of full inclusion of people with disabilities into society and to benefit the needs of people with disabilities; Emphasize the importance that qualified trained and compensated caregivers have on the quality of life for people with disabilities, their families and the entire community; Should prepare and circulate resource materials that foster programming advocacy for people with disabilities and include individuals with disabilities when preparing these materials. (2014 Plenum)

[4] United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities
http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=259

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Restorative and Rehabilitative Justice (2020)

The concept of restorative justice gained traction in the truth and reconciliation commissions of the 1970s as a means for perpetrators and victims to publicly acknowledge harm done, facilitate a process of healing for victims (and offenders), and repair communities after conflict and violations of human rights. In many modern contexts, restorative justice is often broadly defined as a process that 1) involves those who have committed harm and those who have been harmed, 2) collectively seeks accountability from the accused, and 3) protects victim safety and supports victim autonomy.

Justice reform advocates have adopted this term while expanding its scope, understanding that the need for "restoration" and healing often extends beyond victim and perpetrator to their families and communities. In this sense, restorative justice also means policies and practices that emphasize rehabilitation of those who commit crimes and reparation of the harm done to victims, perpetrators, and communities as a result of crime and the justice system itself.[5] In all its forms, use of the term "restoration" is a recognition that those who commit crimes, victims, families of both, and communities are all in need of "restoration" and healing. Studies show that the use of restorative justice mechanisms reduces recidivism, increases victim satisfaction with the justice process, and can even reduce victims' post-traumatic stress.[6]

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: Reorienting our criminal justice system to reflect a rehabilitative and restorative justice approach to public safety that respects the humanity, dignity, and human rights of all people is essential to creating a just society; A main animating principle of reform should be the pursuit of rehabilitation and restorative justice for the victim (if any), the offender, and communities affected through a cooperative, restorative process in which all primary stakeholders have a say in how to repair the harm; People who experience harm should hold power and autonomy in determining and navigating processes for healing and justice; We must acknowledge the need for direct, systemic change across a range of policies and attitudes, including how society understands and treats people who are incarcerated or otherwise subject to the criminal legal system; As a country, we must invest in noncarceral programs and social services, including additional resources for education, housing, employment, health care, and other public benefits, which will make our communities safer and more equitable; and The restorative justice approach will strengthen civil society by enhancing social cohesion and empowering the citizens to solve problems.

The Jewish community relations field should: Work with organizations and coalitions representing affected communities to support restorative and rehabilitative justice policies,

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[5] See uses of "restorative" in Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Vision for Justice: 2020 and Beyond, available at http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/reports/Vision-For-Justice-2020-LONG.pdf.

[6] Strang H, Sherman LW, Mayo-Wilson E, Woods D, Ariel B. Restorative Justice Conferencing (RJC) Using Faceto-Face Meetings of Offenders and Victims: Effects on Offender Recidivism and Victim Satisfaction. A Systematic Review. Campbell Systematic Reviews 2013:12

practices, and reforms at the federal, state, and local level of governments, through—but not limited to—legislation and administrative actions; and Work with human service partners and organizations representing affected communities to support community-based reentry services for the formerly incarcerated individuals and their families, and trauma-informed approaches and community-based solutions that seek accountability from the individuals or systems that cause harm.

In conjunction with groups representing affected communities, [the Jewish community relations field should] call on state and federal governments to enact laws to: Enable individuals convicted of crimes to receive tools for rehabilitation, including but not limited to, education, job training and placement services, and physical and mental health care; and addiction treatment, through alternatives-to incarceration wherever appropriate (and as the preferred alternative to prison for most drug-related crimes); In all prisons or other incarceration facilities, provide the services described above for all who are incarcerated, with the goal of enabling the 95% of incarcerated people who will eventually be released from prison to do so with the support they need to reduce their risk of recidivating and the treatment those with substance use disorder may need to reduce their risk of relapsing or overdosing; Establish robust programs for those who qualify for alternative sentencing and for those who are returning from incarceration, aimed at providing the needed skills and counseling for job placement, housing assistance, and other basic needs, such as food programs, official government IDs, access to health care, and transportation alternatives; Require states to restore voting rights automatically to all individuals immediately upon their release from incarceration; and Promote reforms that advance healing and draw on the leadership and expertise of a broad spectrum of those affected by the justice system, including crime survivors, those who are or have been incarcerated, and the loved ones of both. (2020 Delegates Assembly)

Criminal Justice and Drug Policy Reform (2015)

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: Unrest in American cities is a matter of tremendous concern, as is the sentiment among minority communities that our nation's law enforcement systems unfairly result in arrests, prosecutions, and convictions of minorities to a disproportionate degree. The huge investment of law enforcement resources devoted to arrests and prosecutions for minor drug offenses have produced little societal benefit, while the cost and negative fallout are extensive. Redirecting the focus of our law enforcement systems away from minor drug offenses would free up resources to combat more serious and dangerous crimes, resulting in improved public safety, reduced perceptions among minority communities that the system is biased against them, and a fairer and more effective criminal justice system. Treating personal marijuana use as a public health issue and not a criminal justice one is a more appropriate and effective way to address the issue. Among the possible reform measures that may warrant study and consideration are decriminalization; community program diversion; and greater government investment in services such as drug counseling, treatment for mental health issues, and other rehabilitation and social supports services. Avoidance of incarceration should be the default approach for low-level drug possession. Incarceration should be reserved for more serious offenses. And, for persons who are incarcerated, adequate funding for, and increased access to, re-entry programs can assist their successful reintegration into the community, foster public safety by reducing recidivism, and promote responsible citizenship. Reentry planning should include educational programs and job training, access to medical and mental health care,

and continuing substance abuse treatment where appropriate. Supportive programs should be provided before and after release from incarceration, to ease transition into the workforce. Denying access to public assistance, food stamps, subsidized housing, professional licensure, student loans, and other programs to individuals who would otherwise qualify is short-sighted and counterproductive.

The community relations field should: Urge state and federal government agencies and officials to evaluate and support where appropriate measures to replace criminalization with responsible regulatory policies. These include but are not limited to community program diversion; and greater government investment in services such as drug counseling, treatment for mental health issues, and other rehabilitation and social support services. Urge state and federal government agencies and legislators to adopt policies and legislation designed to reverse mass incarceration, including but not limited to reducing mandatory minimum sentences for nonviolent offenses; eliminating certain enhancements for prior nonviolent offenses; granting judges greater sentencing discretion; pretrial and bail reform; ending the practice of incarceration for minor or technical violations of parole or probation conditions; and offering new pathways to reduce prison sentences (such as participation in community-based treatment programs for drug and alcohol addictive disorders and mental health conditions, early release programs, and alternatives to incarceration). A current example of this type of legislation is the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act of 2015 (S. 2123). Advocate and encourage our coalition partners to advocate in favor of recognition and adoption of policies based on the following principles: Long sentences and mandatory incarceration for minor drug offenses, including marijuana possession, are not effective to deter drug use or reduce addiction rates. Avoidance of incarceration should be the default approach for low-level drug possession. Incarceration should be reserved for more serious offenses; Redirecting the focus of our law enforcement systems away from minor drug offenses can serve to free up resources to combat more serious and dangerous crimes, resulting in 3 improved public safety, reduced perceptions among minority communities that the system is biased against them, and a fairer and more effective criminal justice system; Treating personal marijuana use as a public health issue, rather than a criminal justice issue, is a more appropriate and effective way to address issues associated with drug use; Patients should have full access to marijuana for medical uses, and researchers should have full access for research purposes; o For persons who are incarcerated, reentry planning should include educational programs and job training, access to medical and mental health care, and continuing substance abuse treatment where appropriate. Supportive programs should be provided before and after release from incarceration, to ease transition into the workforce; and denial of access to public assistance, food stamps, subsidized housing, professional licensure, student loans, and other programs to individuals who would otherwise qualify is unacceptable. Federal laws should be modified to reduce the numerous legal conflicts and impediments for states that have legalized medicinal marijuana or decriminalized or legalized marijuana. (2015 Plenum)

Criminal Justice Reform (2009)

JCPA believes: Criminal Justice Reform, at the federal, state, and local level, can result in a more effective and efficient criminal justice system. Reforms to all phases of our criminal justice system, based on sound data, can re-establish public faith and trust in the system, minimize mistakes, reduce recidivism, and conserve resources. They include improvements in the areas of

prevention, investigations, prosecution, corrections, education, training, and re-entry. There are economic benefits in moving a substantial segment of the population toward productivity who would have otherwise faced insurmountable barriers to employment and re-integration after release from incarceration.

Scores of post-conviction exonerations remind us that our system can and does convict innocent people. On both the state and federal levels, reforms are needed to ensure accountability for conduct and performance of police and prosecutors. Police-community coordination can help improve the ability of law enforcement to provide security to the public. Local law enforcement agencies should receive appropriate resources and have clearly defined procedures to ensure accuracy from the investigative, identification, and interrogation phases through post-conviction proceedings.

Access to competent counsel is both constitutionally mandated and essential to prevent miscarriages of justice. The inadequacy of the current system too often results in justice denied. Appropriate funding of our courts and the public defender system, including access to DNA evidence where appropriate, can help ensure that justice is neither delayed nor denied, as when the outcomes of criminal proceedings hinge arbitrarily on a defendant's finances.

Sentencing reforms can help ensure that the punishment fits the crime. These include increased judicial discretion as opposed to mandatory minimum sentences or similar provisions. Alternatives to incarceration, trial or prosecution, such as community program diversion, electronic monitoring, drug courts (which have served as a model), mandatory drug counseling, and other types of treatment for mental health issues should be used more frequently.

Juvenile justice systems should hold youthful offenders accountable for their actions but should also recognize that juveniles possess a great potential for change and rehabilitation. Juveniles are often subjected to avoidable negative influences and psychological damage through the justice system. Increased use of alternatives to incarceration, including community program diversion, special education, suitable placement, treatment, rehabilitation, mediation and restitution may enhance the likelihood that youth will grow into responsible, self-respecting productive adults.

Prisons should serve their deterrent and rehabilitative purposes and not exacerbate societal ills. Lack of adequate rehabilitation programming, medical and behavioral health services, substance abuse treatment, educational opportunities, and family contact, tragically neglect the opportunity to prepare individuals for productive participation in society. Prison conditions, including serious overcrowding and pervasive sexual violence, can impose hardships and dire consequences more egregious than those imposed by our laws. These conditions may constitute human rights violations that should be examined and addressed.

Adequate funding for and increased access to re-entry and parole programs can assist the successful reintegration of former prisoners, foster public safety by reducing recidivism, and promote responsible citizenship. Reentry planning should include educational programs and job training, access to medical and mental health care, including substance abuse treatment, to reduce recidivism. Denying access to public assistance, SNAP, and student loans to individuals, who would otherwise qualify for these benefits, is short-sighted and counterproductive. These

programs should be provided before and after release from incarceration so as to ease transition into the workforce. Individuals serving mandatory drug related sentences should be eligible to apply for parole related programs as well as "good conduct" credits.

The restoration of voting rights to people released from prison should be supported. It may foster a sense of responsibility and help in their re-integration into society. The disenfranchisement of millions of former prisoners results in significant racial disparities among qualified voters.

Racial disparities are a tragic, undeniable, and unacceptable factor in criminal justice. Criminal justice reform requires examination of the role that racism may play at every stage and the implementation of measures to ensure the equal protection of all Americans, including training through all phases of the system, law enforcement community relations programming, and sentencing reform. (See also JCPA Resolution on Race and Criminal Justice, 2001)

The community relations field should: Educate ourselves and others about the criminal justice system and evidence based reforms that can help to reduce crime and reduce the rate of incarceration. All interested parties need to be heard including the judiciary, the bar, law enforcement, corrections officials, victims, prosecutors and criminal defense lawyers, past and present inmates; families of people with criminal records, and a range of other advocacy and community service organizations including ex-offender service providers, legal aid programs and faith-based community organizations and a range of other advocacy organizations including those in the faith-based community; create coalitions among all aspects of the criminal justice system to address these issues and prioritize solutions; generate public awareness of the magnitude of these issues and work with public officials to seek creative redress; insist that our elected officials face the harsh realities of the weaknesses in the criminal justice system; and advocate for legislative changes and other efforts to foster and implement meaningful reforms (Plenum 2009)

Recognizing the responsibility of government at all levels to act forcefully to prevent crime, the JCPA historically has advocated crime fighting strategies that include both strict enforcement measures and intervention initiatives designed to prevent violence (JCPA Policy on Crime and Violence adopted June, 1995). To the degree that problems exist, we must call upon our political leadership and public officials to move with deliberate speed toward the amelioration of such conditions and the institution of appropriate reforms.

Criminal Justice Reform (2001)

The JCPA resolves to:

- Support measures to improve police/community relations, to familiarize all sides with cultural diversity and enable them to better understand minority sensitivities and also the difficult job required of police, such as: Greater efforts to recruit, hire, and also promote minority police officers; Measures to ensure accountability of offending officers and supervising officials; Initiatives to provide enhanced training and continuing education of all police department employees; Programs that encourage officers to develop close ties to the neighborhoods they serve; and Funding by Congress of measures within the Crime

Control Act of 1994 that provide for the accurate collection of comprehensive national data on the use of excessive force by police, including data on people killed or injured by police shootings or other types of force.

- Speak out against incidents and patterns of police harassment and brutality.
- Reaffirm opposition to excessive or indiscriminate use of mandatory minimum sentencing laws, in keeping with the JCPA Policy on Crime and Violence.
- Call for repeal of state and federal laws that require mandatory incarceration of first-time drug offenders, for remedying the sentencing disparity between crack and cocaine offenses, increased government and community support for effective substance abuse and education programs, and for the restoration of judicial discretion in these cases; increasing government and community support for effective substance abuse and education programs, and for the restoration of judicial discretion in these cases;
- Call on government officials and especially juvenile correctional systems to treat juveniles without regard to race or ethnicity at all phases of juvenile proceedings.
- Call for full enforcement of the existing federal mandate that disproportionate minority confinement of juveniles must be analyzed and addressed, when found to exist, and for the application of penalties required by law against those systems that fail to fulfill that mandate.
- Encourage constituent agencies to work with state and local agencies as well as other coalition partners to document disparate treatment of minorities and the poor, to study its causes, to educate the community about this issue, and to work to eliminate such disparities
- Call for redirection of public resources from prisons to community and substance abuse programs that can be effective in creating better social conditions and reducing crime. (2001 Plenum)

Voting After a Criminal Conviction

Millions of Americans living and working in the community who have criminal convictions in their pasts are not allowed to vote. Voting may foster a sense of responsibility, encourage community-mindedness, and help in the re-integration of persons formerly incarcerated into society. Laws in the United States disenfranchising persons for criminal convictions are deeply rooted in our nation's past discrimination and the disproportionate racial impact of these laws continues to this day. State disenfranchisement laws based on criminal convictions result in significant racial disparities among otherwise qualified voters. JCPA has consistently supported and reiterates its support for the automatic restoration of voting rights to people released from prison. (2011 Plenum)

Opposition to the Death Penalty

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs historically has stood in opposition to the death penalty. (Plenum 2001) The JCPA supports federal and state legislation to require, in those states and federal jurisdictions that retain the death penalty, the exclusion of people with mental illness from consideration for a death penalty sentence. (June 2002)

Opposition to Racial Profiling by Police Departments

The JCPA registers its unequivocal opposition to the practice of racial profiling as detrimental to democracy. We call upon all communities and law enforcement agencies to combat this practice.

Our community supports measures that will work toward stopping racial profiling and making police agencies more fair and effective. The measures include: more vigorous efforts to recruit, hire, retain and promote minority group members as police officers; making offending officers and supervising officials more accountable; requiring law enforcement agencies to compile and publish statistics which would uncover racial profiling; increasing community relations efforts and cooperation between people of all backgrounds and police departments, so that all sides may gain a better understanding of minority sensitivities as well as the very difficult and dangerous job police officers are required to do; and support initiatives that provide and encourage continuing education at all levels for officers. (2000 Plenum)

Crime and Violence: Concerns Related to the 1994 Crime Bill (1995)
A growing public alarm has strengthened the political popularity of strict and costly punitive strategies, overshadowing the importance of also exploring alternative options. Although society has both the right and obligation to protect its citizens, the nation is challenged today to devise the best combination of anti-crime strategies for maximum impact at the lowest cost, in terms of dollars and also in term of individual liberties. While long-term imprisonment is necessary for hard-core criminals, the "pensive option of lengthy incarceration is not always the most effective solution for all offenders. On the whole, certainty of swift punishment is a better deterrent than length of sentence. A rational allocation of anti-crime resources must also include: alternatives to incarceration, government funding for such mechanisms as intensive parole supervision and juvenile supervision programs, and effective measures to prevent crime. Further, a comprehensive policy, which includes prevention, must also address the links between crime and poverty; those underlying social and economic factors that allow criminal activity to flourish, including drug and substance abuse, lack of employment opportunities, poor housing and an inadequate education system.

We recognize the numerous and complex factors contributing to violence and therefore support effective crime control through improved policing techniques, enhanced control of firearms, and flexible enforcement mechanisms. These must be balanced with comprehensive community strategies and legislative measures, with adequate funding, to promote youth intervention and other prevention programs as key to effective long-term crime reduction. Further, we believe that public zeal to curb criminal violence must not be allowed to weaken the national commitment to constitutional protections. Acceptable anti-crime measures are those which can be implemented without endangering individual liberty or constitutional rights. There is both need and opportunity for grassroots involvement in local coalitions to develop, promote and monitor these efforts.

With the understanding that anti-crime legislation alone is not sufficient without a commitment also to attack the underlying social ills that engender criminal activity and allow it to flourish, we support the following enforcement strategies:

- Adequate levels of funding for police, including community policing; enhanced training and education for police officers.

- Strong federal, state, and local measures to control and reduce the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns and other non-sporting firearms and ammunition; the 1994 Crime

Bill assault weapons ban; stricter, enforced regulation of gun dealers; appropriate waiting periods to permit background checks; improved regulation of interstate sales of weapons; and community efforts to reduce the quantity of guns and ammunition on the streets.

- Alternatives to incarceration for non-violent offenders, which, property administered, can punish criminals, deter others, and reduce the cost of incarceration. Existing alternatives include: half-way houses, victim restitution, community service, work-release programs, juvenile court diversion programs, electronic monitoring, drug courts and other alternative drug treatment and rehabilitation programs.

- In-prison drug and alcohol treatment and other rehabilitation programs for adults and juveniles, as well as aftercare programs; community involvement in aftercare and other prisoner release programs.

- Enhanced community approaches to law enforcement, including neighborhood/police partnerships, neighborhood safety committees.

- Judicial discretion in criminal sentencing, taking into account all pertinent circumstances, including seriousness of the crime and mitigating circumstances, subject to appellate review.

We oppose: Excessive or indiscriminate use of mandatory minimum sentencing laws, which remove all judicial discretion and do not consider individual circumstances, and which often imprison non-violent offenders, reducing space available for long-term incarceration of violent criminals; and In keeping with the NJCRAC's longstanding opposition to capital punishment, we oppose efforts to expand the category of crimes punishable by the death penalty and to unduly restrict a prisoner's ability to file habeas corpus petitions.

We support the following prevention measures: Cooperative efforts among community groups, city, state and federal agencies, with adequate government funding, to create youth intervention programs offering alternatives to violent activity, such as: summer and after-school education and recreation programs, including such initiatives as Beacon Schools, which remain open before and after school hours, to provide a range of educational and social services; jobs, job training and job counseling; gang-resistance education; midnight sports leagues; peer counseling; mentoring; and substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programs; Similar efforts to support local community outreach programs for at-risk families, which address those social factors that allow crime to flourish, such as: substance abuse and prevention programs, mentoring and parenting programs, job training, and efforts to overcome the tragedy of all forms of family violence; and Youth education and public awareness campaigns.

The NJCRAC urges local and national Jewish organizations to join in coalition with other civic, religious, and advocacy groups to promote the development of comprehensive anti-crime strategies, including those which involve community organizations, and to participate in the implementation and monitoring of local programs. (1995 Executive Committee)

Crime and Violence: Addressing Root Causes (1994)

The National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council recognizes and shares the nationwide concern over problems of crime and violence which continue to plague our schools, cities, and suburban communities. The potential for inner city neighborhood revitalization is too often impeded by criminal activity which undermines local efforts to enhance economic development, create jobs, and improve schools. Revitalization of urban neighborhoods and stability anywhere is not possible without anti-crime strategies that render communities safer for families and ensure the protection of children. Reflecting a growing sense of fear and alarm, citizens overwhelmed by the profound violence in their communities are reacting with demands for punishment.

Committed to addressing problems of crime and violence, the Jewish community supported passage of the Brady Bill, and recognizes the need for a range of effective crime fighting strategies. We agree that government must act forcefully to combat crime through determined enforcement. Proposed extreme and inflexible punitive measures, however, such as the expansion of the death penalty for federal crimes, including non-capital crimes, have been shown historically to have only limited effect on violent crime, and are not the solution.

A comprehensive policy on crime and violence must address the root causes that allow criminal activity to flourish, including poverty, drug and substance abuse, lack of employment opportunities, and an inadequate education system.

The NJCRAC therefore urges legislators to develop and support anti-crime strategies that address not only the need for more effective enforcement and gun control, but also the underlying social and economic factors that impact on crime and allow it to grow. The NJCRAC opposes legislation that would expand the rubric of crimes punishable by death, and that would unduly restrict prisoners' ability to file *habeas corpus* petitions.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

Civil Liberties and Security

The JCPA believes that: the debate about the civil liberties implications of the War on Terrorism has been impaired by hyperbole. It is not productive to describe those who endorse measures to combat terrorism as opponents of individual rights unduly infringing on civil liberties; nor is it productive to characterize those who have criticized aspects of the war on terrorism as unpatriotic. Vigorous efforts to protect Americans from terrorism and advocacy to protect civil liberties are the essence of patriotism; That where measures are undertaken to combat terrorism that have the potential to conflict with vital civil liberties protections and other American and Jewish values, the protection of civil liberties requires that strong legal checks be maintained over the exercise of governmental power and that that such actions be carried out in secrecy only when necessary and subject to prompt judicial review; That the USA PATRIOT Act contains several provisions that seek to increase the security of Americans, most with safeguards to prevent civil liberties abuses. These include measures that allow foreign intelligence and domestic law enforcement to communicate, and procedures facilitating sensitive investigations. At the same time, some of the law enforcement tools provided in the USA PATRIOT Act would

not be significantly hindered by increased judicial oversight. When legislation is proposed to dilute existing privacy protections, at a minimum, there must be a substantial, public showing of the need for such measures to combat terrorism, and the measures should impact on privacy rights as narrowly as reasonably possible and all such changes should contain sunset provisions. Legislation is necessary to modify aspects of the USA PATRIOT Act to provide reasonable limits on law enforcement's authority without hampering their ability to investigate and prevent terrorism. Such measures should include amending the USA PATRIOT Act to provide reasonable time caps subject to extension by court order on sneak and peek warrants; to delay notification of subjects under such warrants only in cases where terrorism or actions of a foreign agent are suspected; to require as much specificity as prudent of the target or location of the targets of surveillance; to raise the standards for orders under Section 215 of the act, confining them to terrorism investigations, and requiring a greater showing of cause or individualized suspicion; to place reasonable time limits on gag orders for secret searches; and generally to provide greater judicial oversight in terrorism and other related investigations including mechanisms for judicial approval of search warrants and judicial review of detentions; That several administrative actions outside the scope of the USA PATRIOT Act have also infringed upon civil liberties and should be reversed or modified, including those that adversely impact the preeminent right of all individuals to competent legal counsel. We remain troubled by the application of Enemy Combatant status to American citizens captured in the United States, extended and secret detentions, and the potential trial of terrorism suspects with abridged due process protections. We reiterate our opposition to the Department of Justice directive that allows federal officials to monitor conversations between certain detained individuals and their lawyers without judicial approval. This directive has the effect of weakening not only the protection of attorney-client privilege, but the right to legal counsel altogether; That it is not appropriate, except in circumstances involving an identifiable and present threat, for law enforcement officials to investigate citizens or permanent residents based solely on the basis of ethnicity or religion. In fact, too narrow a focus on ethnicity or religion could allow terrorists to elude detection. Further, the government should not investigate persons solely based upon their having engaged in constitutionally protected speech or association, although association with persons known or reasonably suspected of supporting terrorism clearly justifies further investigation of an individual.

The community relations field should: Oppose the outright repeal of all or most of the USA PATRIOT Act, recognizing that these proposals would remove from law enforcement many tools that are necessary to combat terrorism, and would not obviate those provisions outside the USA PATRIOT Act that are of concern; Support legislation to modify specific sections of the USA PATRIOT Act, including increased Congressional and judicial oversight on the performance of the Executive Branch under the law. This will allow us to evaluate the successes and failures of these anti-terrorism provisions; Organize and work to promote civil and informed public discourse concerning the balancing of civil liberties and the war on terrorism; Work in coalitions to learn about the effects of the USA PATRIOT Act on other ethnic and religious communities. (2004 Plenum)

The JCPA believes it is essential that a proper balance be struck between combating terror and protecting civil liberties. Preventing acts of terror may indeed lead to different determinations about how to apply civil liberties principles than might be made in other circumstances. We

recognize that persons of good faith may differ as to what constitutes the proper balance between combating terror and protecting civil liberties, and we believe that the debate on this issue should be free of rancor, invective and partisanship. Further, we believe it is important that, in making decisions which may impinge upon civil liberties, our government not allow legitimate and urgent concerns to lead us to act without taking the time to assess and debate fully the civil liberties implications of proposed steps. We are particularly concerned about three instances in which we believe the government has apparently failed to strike the proper balance:

1. The Department of Justice directive allowing federal officials, without judicial approval, to listen in on conversations between certain detained individuals and their lawyers. This measure, which was instituted without congressional approval or public deliberation, undermines the due process protections in existing law that prevent such eavesdropping from taking place without a court order. The directive has the effect of weakening not only the protection of attorney-client privilege, but the basic right to competent legal counsel altogether. Lawyers cannot advocate for their clients effectively if they must constantly fear undermining their cases by merely speaking with the individuals whom they are sworn to represent.

2. An order by Attorney General John Ashcroft allowing immigrants to be detained without charge for an unspecified "reasonable time" during a "national emergency." This order gives the Justice Department effectively the same power of indefinite detention that it sought — and was specifically denied — in the anti-terrorism legislation. There may be a need to detain certain individuals who have been determined by a court to be suspects or potential witnesses in cases of terrorism and who might flee if released. However, many feel this regulation violates not only the due process protections of the Sixth Amendment, but the will of Congress as well.

3. The proposed use of military tribunals to try suspects. Our government should have some flexibility in the manner in which suspected terrorists are prosecuted. Open military tribunals, bound by the traditional protections that govern both our civilian and military courts, might be an important tool in prosecuting the exponents of terror. As the Defense Department finalizes guidelines for the tribunals, it should take steps to preserve the principles that make both justice and freedom essential values of America's legal fabric.

Finally, we strongly support the use of sunset provisions that Congress has included in many of its actions in addressing this crisis. We believe that the best way to ensure that these measures comport with the Constitution and the values enshrined in it is, where possible and practical, for such measures to be discussed, debated, and legislated utilizing our cherished system of checks and balances. (2002 Plenum)

The JCPA continues to support those actions of the President of the United States and of the Administration which do not endanger Constitutional rights, to apprehend, try, and punish those responsible for the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, to eliminate the havens and harbors of terrorists internationally, to prevent future terrorist attacks on the United States and its citizens and interests, and ultimately to eliminate terrorism, strongly believes that adherence to

fundamental principles of fairness and due process in investigating terrorism as well as apprehending, trying, and punishing those responsible for terrorist attacks is important not only to safeguard the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution but also to preserve the moral authority of the United States. We are particularly concerned about the treatment of United States citizens, including questions of indefinite detentions, denial of legal counsel and trials that are closed in their entirety. At the same time, JCPA believes that these valued protections must be applied in a balanced manner in light of what is reasonable under current circumstances, and in light of the necessity to ensure the security of all Americans and believes that the war on terrorism must engage the root causes of this growing danger, namely the teaching of hatred and violence, especially that which permeates segments of the Islamic and Arab worlds, and which have frequently operated with acquiescence or outright support of foreign governments.

The community relations field should encourage public support for the Administration's efforts to apprehend and punish terrorists and to prevent future terrorist attacks, ensure that the political climate remains open and free, such that public discourse evaluating governmental action in the war on terrorism continues to be a valuable part of American democracy, continue to monitor the manner in which the war on terrorism is conducted to ensure that these important efforts do not infringe upon our fundamental freedoms, encourage the intensified use of diplomatic and other channels to advocate for elimination of anti-Semitic, anti-American, and pro-terrorism rhetoric, and advocate to make this a goal of U.S. foreign policy , and raise the issues of anti-Semitism, anti-Americanism, and terrorism with coalition partners, including in dialogue with the Arab American and Muslim-American communities, and encourage internal and public pronouncements which unequivocally reject terrorism and deliberate attacks on civilians as acceptable means of political expression. (February 2003)

We support the freezing of assets of groups and individuals that have been linked to terrorist activities, as well as moves by major corporations and philanthropies who have blocked donations to such organizations. (2002 Plenum)

Flag Desecration

The JCPA believes that the principle of free speech protected by our Constitution and symbolized by our American flag is strong enough and precious enough to withstand even the most offensive speech. Among the truest tests of this principle is that even an act as abhorrent as burning or desecrating the flag is deserving of protection. The JCPA calls on the Congress and the American people to defeat efforts to amend the constitution to prohibit desecration of the flag and to support the Bill of Rights for which the flag stands. (Resolution1997 Plenum)

Attacks on Advocacy by Non-Profit Organizations

The organized Jewish community, in coalition with fellow members of the non-profit sector, must remain vigilant in opposing initiatives to impose severe restrictions on the ability of non-profit organizations to engage in advocacy on issues pertaining to their mission. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Free Speech in an Age of Cyber-Technology

The JCPA believes that "Jewish security is best furthered by a democratic society in which there is adherence to the Bill of Rights and its guarantees of freedom of expression." At the same time,

JCPA recognizes the evolving nature of speech and the need to consider and apply principles of free speech in light of new technology.

The JCPA recommends the following: Support the use of filtering in publicly funded places that provide Internet access, such as schools and libraries, to block material harmful to minors, provided that unfiltered computers are available for use by adults; Advocate legislation to make illegal the use of the Internet to instruct and encourage individuals to engage in imminently violent criminal activities, including terrorism. Support legislation to protect the privacy of personal information collected on the Internet (such as financial, medical, and other sensitive data), and to provide greater individual control over the collection and use of that information; require privacy disclosures on web sites, consumer consent for use of data, and access by individuals to their own personal data; Promote measures to monitor and ensure that internet surveillance by law enforcement comport with individual liberties including freedoms of speech, association, and due process, and freedom from unwarranted search and seizure. Argue that the Internet communication should be afforded the same legal protection as other forms of speech. The JCPA recommends the following Voluntary Constraints call on Internet service providers (ISPs) to police their clients' web sites, reminding them there is no law requiring that they continue to do business (with) and provide services to sites that preach violence, teach bomb-making or promote other forms of terrorism; encourage ISPs to develop a common standard of acceptable practices for use of their services; advocate increased public education regarding how privacy works on the Internet; press for privacy enhancing technologies that emphasize self-regulation; encourage parents to take responsibility for what their children view, to educate themselves and their children about the powers and proper use of the Internet, and to make use of filtering and blocking technologies, options for monitoring children's computers, and use of "green spaces" technology (whereby specified web pages are downloaded to a server, without providing full Internet access): promote development of websites designed to counter hate speech. Use the networking capability of the Internet itself to organize online communities that challenge, inform and counter hate messages; support efforts to promote "voluntary self-labeling," for example, asking search engines to require that all web sites label content when applying for a spot in their directories. (Agenda 2000-2001)

SEPARATION OF RELIGION AND STATE

Overview

The JCPA believes that in our increasingly pluralistic society, a clear division between religion and state remains the best way to preserve and promote religious rights and liberties for all Americans, including the Jewish community; Religious institutions and people of faith can and should play a vital role in public discourse. The separation of religion and state does not mandate silence from such individuals and institutions with respect to matters of public policy. However, attempts to influence public policy should be tempered by both respect and tolerance for diverse beliefs and practices, as well as the principle that government must treat all its citizens equally, regardless of religious belief or the lack thereof; The public policy agenda of the American Jewish community should be guided by what best serves our community's values and interests in the context of a democratic and pluralistic society. Even where an increased role of religion in the public square may be judicially interpreted as constitutional, we should continue to oppose

changes which we consider detrimental to our core values, the interests of the Jewish community, or the pluralistic nature of our society.

The community relations field should Educate the Jewish and general community about the historic role of separation of religion and state as well as developments in the law regarding the relationship of religion and state and the right to free exercise of religion; Defend the right of religious individuals and organizations to speak, debate, and advocate on matters of public policy where appropriate; Advocate on the federal and state level for policies that promote the full and free exercise of religious liberty by individuals and institutions as well as promote the appropriate relationship between religion and state by insisting that all governmental actions have a clear non-religious, neutral purpose, neither endorse nor unduly inhibit religious practice, and do not extensively entangle government and religion; Engage in dialogue with interfaith partners, including those with divergent viewpoints, about the importance of religious diversity and focus on how religious communities can work together to foster greater respect for different viewpoints; and, Work in coalitions at the state and federal levels to preserve and promote legislation and constitutional protections that provide for separation of church and state and the protection of the right to religious practice, and oppose legislation and regulations that undermine them. (2005 Plenum)

Charitable Choice

The JCPA supports public funding of social service programs operated by religiously affiliated organizations, when legislation authorizing such funding contains appropriate safeguards that will prevent First Amendment violations and protect the religious freedom of program beneficiaries and employees of service providers. (Agenda 2000-2001)

The JCPA agrees that religiously affiliated institutions may provide valuable and efficient social services, and may qualify for government funding for such programs.

However, government funding of social services through religiously affiliated organizations must contain appropriate and effective First Amendment safeguards such as those that prevent proselytization, coercion or indoctrination and that safeguard clients and service provider employees against discrimination on the basis of religion. Therefore, the JCPA will continue to oppose the passage of legislation that does not contain appropriate safeguards. Additionally, the community relations field must be increasingly vigilant and vocal in monitoring the implementation of federal block grant programs at the state and local level to prevent First Amendment violations and to protect the religious freedom of program beneficiaries and employees of service providers. (Agenda 1999-2000)

The JCPA urges the removal of "charitable choice" provisions that omit meaningful and effective First Amendment safeguards from Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF). TANF must include protections which clearly state that no funds may be used to proselytize, coerce or indoctrinate; that no institution receiving funding may require worship as a condition for receiving TANF related benefits, and that no institution receiving TANF block grant funding may engage in employment practices in a manner inconsistent with governing civil rights laws. (2002 Plenum)

Disaster Response
The JCPA believes that religiously affiliated social service providers and educational facilities can play an important role in disaster response, but the transfer of public funds to such providers must be accomplished in a way that maximizes safeguards against religious coercion, proselytization, or discrimination. Furthermore, religious providers of social services cannot take the place of government, which must be held accountable for adequately and effectively responding to disaster; The exigent circumstances of a disaster should never be an excuse to waive vital protections for workers, contractors and others. In no circumstances should any emergency changes in policy be anything but temporary and narrowly tailored. (2006 Plenum)

Free Exercise of Religion
The JCPA supports passage of Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) legislation at the state level, where needed. Another priority is passage of the Workplace Religious Freedom Act (WRFA), which would strengthen federal laws requiring employers to reasonably accommodate employees' religious needs.

The Jewish community is overwhelmingly committed to the notion that religious liberty should be afforded the highest level of constitutional protection like other fundamental constitutional rights. Our community is also sensitive to the concerns that have been raised with regard to the Religious Liberty Protection Act's (RLPA) potential impact upon state and local civil rights ordinances, but we are troubled by the fact that a great deal of misinformation has been deployed against RLPA in connection with these concerns, for no JCPA agency that has supported the cause of religious liberty has done so for the purpose of harming America's civil rights protections.

The Jewish community remains united in its commitment to achieving the goal embodied in RLPA — the promotion of religious liberty and affording that liberty the highest level of constitutional protection. We will work to find acceptable ways, within a legislative framework, to achieve this goal while simultaneously being sensitive to possible adverse impact upon civil rights interests. JCPA will work to secure the passage of religious liberty legislation in a manner consistent with this statement. (Agenda 2000-2001)

Houses of Worship Free Speech Restoration Act
The JCPA believes that houses of worship, like all charitable institutions, must not engage in partisan political campaign activity, but are appropriate settings for nonpartisan presentations that allow for the exchange of views with candidates and office holders.

The community relations field should: oppose legislative efforts to allow houses of worship to engage in any partisan political activity; build coalitions to educate about the freedoms of speech and advocacy that currently exist, and the importance of keeping America's houses of worship separated from partisan political campaign activities; and, urge compliance with and enforcement of restrictions against partisan activity by houses of worship. (2005 Plenum)

Religious Symbols in Public Places
The Jewish community relations field will continue to vigorously oppose the use of government property as a forum for the promotion of religious views. While Jews respect the important role that religion plays in shaping private and public morals, religion should not be on display in the nation's courtrooms, which are meant to represent the impartial, objective application of secular rule of law. Nor should religious items be placed in other public areas, where the danger of implied government sponsorship is present, and where insensitivity to those of different faiths is particularly oppressive and threatening. (Agenda 1998-1999)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America does not join the blanket condemnation of religious displays on government property.*

Language and Identity Schools
The JCPA believes that legislation authorizing such language and identity charter schools must ensure that these schools hold to their public mandate as secular institutions. CRCs should work to ensure that significant oversight exists to ensure that these schools fulfill their public mandate in all respects as secular institutions. Significant transparency and appropriate and stringent oversight are needed to ensure that curriculum and instruction teach the foundations of a representative democracy and are purely nonsectarian. The task force is urged to examine the impact of these schools on the Jewish community. (2008 Plenum)

School Prayer - Religion in Public Schools
The JCPA continues to oppose all forms of organized public prayer at or in connection with schools sponsored events and activities where other students are captive audiences whether led by students, faculty, or others. The JCPA will continue to oppose unconstitutional measures such as the bill to permit the display of the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms. Nevertheless, the JCPA recognizes that America's public schools are not meant to be "religion-free" zones, and that there are constitutionally appropriate ways to teach about religions —- their views, roles in history, culture, philosophy, literature and the arts. Additionally, the JCPA will continue to oppose initiatives to eliminate the study of evolution from public school science curricula and/or to promote the teaching of creationism. (Agenda 2000-2001)

The community relations field must continue to monitor these activities, such as 'See You at the Pole' events, to ensure that they are not organized by school administrators or teachers, and that students are not subjected to coercion or harassment because they choose not to participate. Although the organized Jewish community long has championed freedom of speech and religious expression, those fundamental principles must be exercised within the limits set by the establishment clause, which are especially critical in classrooms where children are captive audiences and are more vulnerable to religious indoctrination. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Vouchers
The JCPA believes that vouchers are not the panacea for dramatically improving the education of poor children or for overcoming the daunting challenges faced by urban schools. Rather, the JCPA is concerned that voucher programs are likely to drain precious financial resources from public school systems, and eventually lead to even less financial and civic investment in public education; result in the best students, and/or those with the most actively involved parents, being

"skimmed" from public schools, leaving behind those children who are not accepted into private schools or whose parents are not sufficiently involved in their children's education to take advantage of voucher programs, thereby further depressing the quality of these public schools and the life chances of their students; and not provide sufficient funds to cover the entire cost of private school tuition, thereby benefiting only those parents who can make up the difference.

The JCPA strongly supports the development and continuation of quality programs designed to improve public education. The JCPA believes that it is imperative for the organized Jewish community to reaffirm its commitment to the nation's public schools, where most of its children have been and continue to be educated.

The JCPA and the majority of American Jews remain firmly committed to the belief that the wall of separation between church and state is an essential bulwark for religious freedom in the United States. The JCPA reiterates its long-standing belief that publicly funded vouchers used for sectarian school tuition costs seriously undermine the fundamental principles of separation of church and state, as expressed both in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and parallel provisions in state constitutions. It is the JCPA's view that whether vouchers are paid directly to sectarian schools or are disbursed to parents, the underlying effect is the same: American taxpayers are compelled to support financially, and therefore promote, religious beliefs they may not share, thereby infringing upon their religious freedom. The JCPA emphasizes once again its view that the purpose of the Establishment Clause is not to ensure that the government adopts a neutral or impartial position with respect to religion, but that it neither promote or endorse religion nor entangle itself in religious affairs at all. Therefore, no matter how neutrally designed a particular voucher program may be, if it includes private sectarian schools, the JCPA believes that it violates the Establishment Clause, because it utilizes public funds to promote religious and religiously-based education. The JCPA believes that the use of public funds to cover tuition costs at private sectarian schools is therefore irreconcilable with basic First Amendment principles that dictate the relationship between church and state in America.

As a matter of principle, the JCPA believes that the responsibility for solving the crisis in Jewish education lies first and foremost within the Jewish community, and not with federal, state or local governments. The JCPA applauds initiatives by Jewish philanthropists, educators, and religious leaders to increase awareness about the need to dramatically increase the Jewish community's support for its day schools and other educational programs and to commit financial resources to achieve this goal. For the reasons stated above, the JCPA therefore resolves to reaffirm its opposition to publicly-funded voucher programs that aid non-public schools; to recommit itself to playing a leadership role in the quest to improve American public education, by seeking sound, innovative methods of improving public schools, and actively advocating for improved budgets and other reforms at federal, state, and local levels; to dedicate itself to addressing the need to strengthen Jewish education, primarily but by no means exclusively by ensuring adequate funding for Jewish day schools, after-school synagogue programs, summer camps, and Israel experiences; and to encourage Jewish community relations agencies throughout the United States to devote their energy and resources to grass-roots programs that will both improve public schools and also foster Jewish continuity. (Statement February 1998)

The JCPA reaffirms the October 1999 vote of its Board of Directors endorsing the significance and value of Jewish day school education and calls for increased individual and communal support for Jewish day schools. (2000 Plenum)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America dissents from the JCPA Voucher Study (1998). We believe that the Jewish community has traditionally been committed to principles that should lead it to support school choice initiatives. Those principles include: (1) a commitment to social justice reflected in a desire to minimize the role of personal wealth in one's ability to secure the basic needs and services that secure a dignified and productive life; (2) a commitment to fight discrimination based upon religion; and, (3) a desire to stem the tide of assimilation and promote Jewish continuity through providing a Jewish education for all Jewish children.*

GUNS AND MASS VIOLENCE

Rooted in our belief in the sanctity of life, the Jewish community relations field has fought for decades to prevent gun violence, which has become heart-breakingly, unacceptably common. Gun violence, including mass shootings, have reached epidemic levels, impacting people from every walk of life in almost every community in our nation. The Jewish community has itself experienced the deadly effects of gun violence. Americans are now 25 times more likely to be killed by guns and eight times more likely to kill themselves with a gun than people in other developed countries. Each year, over 36,000 people are killed by guns and gun-related homicide remains the leading cause of death among Black teens and adults, ages 15-34.

JCPA's work on gun violence prevention began in 1968. Over the next four decades, JCPA repeatedly returned to gun violence prevention, building consensus within the Jewish community to support commonsense regulations while opposing repressive crime control measures. Based on the 2013 Resolution on Mass Violence, JCPA penned an open letter to Congress in 2018, signed by 22 national Jewish agencies, including the four main denominations of Judaism, calling for stronger measures to end gun violence.

The Jewish community has a deep and abiding concern for public safety. Driven by our belief in the overriding sanctity of life and the commandment against murder, the Jewish community relations field is committed to a comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence, and to condemning mass shootings as domestic terrorism.

Gun Violence Prevention

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that as Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel phrased it, Judaism calls upon us to take "a leap of action." The time for us to act is now.

No single reform will prevent all future tragedies, which is why we therefore advocate for a balanced, multipronged approach that includes, but is not limited to, the following measures: Banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines; Robust universal background checks for all firearm sales and transfers, including those by private or unlicensed sellers or transferors; Closing loopholes in federal law so that adjudicated abusers and stalkers are no longer able to purchase or possess firearms; Federal and state Extreme Risk Protection Orders or "red flag"

laws, which enable families, household members, current or former intimate partners, or law enforcement officers to petition a court to temporarily remove a person's access to firearms when they are in crisis, before they harm themselves or others; Strategic violence intervention and prevention programs that reduce gun violence in the most impacted communities; Registration and tracking for all firearms at the time of sale or subsequent transfer and licensing for anyone that purchases, owns, carries, and or uses firearms; Extended waiting periods and volume sales restrictions; Effective, universal safe storage laws, including safes or gun locks in homes and cars where children reside or are present; Diligent enforcement of firearm regulations and expansion of federal laws prohibiting gun trafficking and straw purchases; Authorization and funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to research the effects of gun violence as a public health issue; Development and adoption of evidence-based gun technology by gun manufacturers and law enforcement to reduce violence; Mandatory gun safety and training programs required for all gun purchasers; Banning guns that can evade detection, such as those that can be downloaded or printed; Government firearm buy-back programs.

Unrestricted open and concealed carry decreases public safety. Open carry should not be allowed in urban areas without a permit and concealed carry permits should be limited to persons with a permit only after appropriate training and background checks. Studies show that states with limited restrictions have higher rates of violent crime and gun homicides. In addition, the presence of visible firearms can escalate violence and has been known to confuse law enforcement responding to shootings.

The Jewish community relations field should educate our communities about how gun violence overlaps with issues like hate, crime, domestic violence, and law enforcement shootings, with unique manifestations and impacts on different individuals and communities. Join and participate in broad coalitions to advocate for reforms and elevate and center those most impacted. Urge Congress and the Administration, as well as state and local governments, to pass laws to reduce gun violence (as outlined above) and to enforce existing gun laws. Advocate for full funding for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) as well as a full-time director. Advocate for full and open communication and coordination between federal, state, and local agencies charged with enforcement of gun laws. Educate the public, especially the Jewish communities we serve and represent, about the impacts of gun violence and common-sense solutions, including safe storage and gun locks. Work with gun manufacturers, distributors, law enforcement, and other relevant stakeholders to support and adopt evidence-based gun technology to reduce violence. (2020 Delegates Assembly)

Gun Safety, Crime, and Violence

The Jewish community relations field should raise awareness within the Jewish and general community regarding the nature and scope of the gun violence crisis in America and encourage more active advocacy on this issue; Make common cause with those governmental officials, law enforcement professionals, health care providers and gun violence prevention activists who are advocating for reasonable and effective legislation that will appropriately limit access to handguns especially as it relates to the unlimited purchase of handguns; and Advocate for funding to address comprehensive, efficient, coordinated solutions to gun violence. (2007 Plenum)

The JCPA believes that the easy access of firearms and its accompanying violence has taken a terrible toll on America, particularly on its youth. The JCPA and its member agencies support local, state, and federal legislation that does the following: requires background checks for all gun purchases, particularly purchases at gun shows nationwide, and a mandatory 72-hour waiting period for handgun purchases; requires mandatory training programs and licensing for gun owners and registration of handguns; limits purchases to one handgun a month; imposes new penalties on those selling guns to juveniles; penalizes negligent gun owners if their guns are used in violent acts, especially by children; requires the expansion of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban; requires additional resources be allocated and efforts be made to prosecute those who attempt either to sell or to obtain firearms by fraudulent means; requires the sale of effective childproof safety locks with clear instructions on use on all handgun purchases.

The JCPA supports strong federal, state and local measures to control and reduce the manufacture, sale and possession of handguns and other non-sporting firearms and ammunition, including stricter, enforced regulation of gun dealers; expansion of the 1994 Assault Weapons Ban; appropriate waiting periods to permit background checks; training and licensing of gun owners; registration of handguns; limiting handgun purchases; requiring the sale of childproof safety locks with all handgun purchases; penalties for those selling guns to juveniles; penalizing negligent gun owners if their guns are used in violent acts, especially by children; improved regulation of interstate sales of weapons; improved prosecution of those who sell or obtain firearms illegally; and community efforts to reduce the quantity of guns and ammunition on the streets. The JCPA will continue to oppose legislative "anti-violence, pro-values" initiatives, which contribute little to violence reduction and further erode church-state separation. (Agenda 2000-2001)

We believe that current laws must be enforced and that new common-sense legislation is needed to stem the rising tide of gun violence throughout the United States. The JCPA and its member agencies call on all legislators to make this country safer by stemming the tide of violence that puts us all at risk. (2000 Plenum)

Preventing Mass Violence

The community relations field should: Actively participate in broad-based coalitions in a way that seeks to transcend partisan politics including, where possible, working with local, state, and national leaders, first responders, survivors and their families, gun violence prevention advocates, gun owners, and others to find meaningful solutions to stop the outrageous and unacceptable violence that tears at the fabric of our society and endangers the lives and safety of all Americans. This work should be done in the context of support for a reasonable balance of interests under the Second Amendment; Call on the Administration and Congress, as well as state and local authorities to take direct, swift and unequivocal action to adopt laws and regulations consistent with this policy and regulate the manufacture, distribution, sale, registration, and possession of firearms and ammunition in a way that comports with Constitutional requirements; and pass budget line items to fund enforcement of these laws and regulations; Advocate and work for better access to affordable mental health care for all who are in need; Engage in a serious conversation about how to reduce the level of violence in society, including the media and video games, by encouraging responsible exercise of First Amendment

rights by all citizens; Support allowing and funding the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to perform research on the effects of gun violence. (2013 Plenum)

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: The current spate of mass shootings and the overwhelming carnage is utterly unacceptable. In the context of support for a reasonable balance of interests under the Second Amendment, we recognize and respect the right of Americans to own guns, and we are not seeking to undermine in any respect the right of law abiding Americans to own handguns and rifles for legitimate purposes such as hunting, self-defense, and sport, but we do not accept the current state of affairs. While we recognize the need to increase security at certain places of public and private gathering, we refuse to accept a dystopian environment where schools, houses of worship, community centers, shopping malls, theaters, and other venues are either in lockdown mode or where more guns are considered the preferred solution for public safety.

Comprehensive action is needed to restore the safety of our schools, communities and public spaces. While no single solution will prevent all future tragedies, we are committed to supporting reasonable efforts to save lives such as: meaningful legislation to limit access to the most dangerous weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines that have no other purpose than to inflict maximum carnage; registration and tracking for all firearms at the time of sale or subsequent transfer; and periodic licensing of anyone that purchases, owns, carries, and or uses firearms; appropriate waiting periods, volume sales restrictions, and background checks, including criminal and mental health histories, for all firearm sales, including private sales and gun show sales; legislation and regulations requiring the safe storage of firearms; government firearm buy-back programs; diligent enforcement of firearm regulations; robust efforts to ensure that every person in need has access to quality mental health care; encouraging a serious national conversation about violence in media and video games.

The proliferation of open and concealed carry options are not appropriate solutions to gun violence in our society and should be curtailed; Laws and regulations alone will not stop the spate of violence. Communities and families must examine the culture of violence that permeates movies, television, and video games which some feel may desensitize troubled individuals to the implications of pulling a trigger.

A fully funded mental health system and true parity between physical and mental health are vital to ensure the wellbeing of all those in need. Programs at schools and community based organizations are needed to help destigmatize mental health issues and provide vehicles for early recognition, prevention, and intervention. The discussion about mental health issues related to mass violence should be done with the utmost sensitivity so as not to characterize those with mental illness as violent, but rather to address all possible causative factors including the underfunding of mental health services. (See also Resolution on Mental Health, 2002)

ANTISEMITISM AND HATE CRIMES

Adoption of the IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs adopts the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) *non-legally binding* Working Definition of Antisemitism:

"'*Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'*

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectivity. However, criticism of Israel similar to that leveled against any other country cannot be regarded as antisemitic. Antisemitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for 'why things go wrong.' It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.

Contemporary examples of antisemitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere include, but are not limited to:

- *Calling for, aiding or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.*
- *Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective-such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth of a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.*
- *Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.*
- *Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).*
- *Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.*
- *Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.*
- *Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of the State of Israel is a racist endeavor.*
- *Applying double standards by requiring of [Israel] a behavior not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.*
- *Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g. claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis.*
- *Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.*
- *Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the State of Israel."*

JCPA believes that hate crimes and other criminal acts are antisemitic when the targets of attacks, whether people or property, are intentionally selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews; Antisemitic discrimination is the denial to Jews because they are

Jewish of opportunities or services available to others; and Antisemitism is linked to other forms of hate and bigotry. Its eradication is therefore in the interest of all countries and communities. JCPA acknowledges that criticism of a particular policy or practice of Israel's government, even if harsh, may not be antisemitic if based on the same standards applied to the governments of other countries; Recognizes that antisemitic speech, and even harsh criticism of Israel or its government, may be protected by the U.S. and State Constitutions, while also affirming the right and obligation to oppose antisemitic messages to the full extent allowed by law; and Believes that efforts to identify, address, and educate around antisemitism must not be used to undermine constitutional right to free speech, including the right to protest or criticize the policies of the United States, Israel, or other governments.

The Jewish community relations field should utilize the *Working Definition of Antisemitism*, among other training and education resources, as a tool when engaging and educating policymakers, law enforcement, educators, and community leaders, as well as other Jewish and non-Jewish community partners; Encourage the IHRA definition's use as guidance for educators, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officials in recognizing antisemitic activity or determining whether an alleged act was motivated by discriminatory antisemitic intent; Use the *Working Definition of Antisemitism* as a resource in carrying out the existing recommendations for the community relations field, as outlined in the 2015 JCPA Resolution on Antisemitism. (2020 Delegates Assembly)

Antisemitism

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: Anti-Semitism is a continuing problem in communities all over the world, and we must oppose it wherever and whenever it occurs. To truly understand anti-Semitism and to fight it effectively, we must recognize that criticism of Israel can be anti-Semitic in certain circumstances. At the same time, we must recognize that not all criticism of Israel or its government's policies constitutes anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism is never justified, whether by international developments or political issues, including events in Israel or elsewhere in the Middle East, as stated unambiguously in the OSCE Berlin Declaration in 2004 and reaffirmed in 2014. This applies to both anti-Semitic rhetoric and actions. To be effective, we must employ targeted strategies to specific problems rather than attempting a single-factor solution. Democratic and open societies that protect freedom of expression and basic human rights are the best way to ensure a high quality of life for Jews and non-Jews alike. Operating under the core principle of devotion to *Klal Yisrael*—the totality of the Jewish people—American Jews have a mandate not only to care for the health and welfare of those in our own communities, but also to work to ensure the safety and security of Jewish communities around the world. Just as the Jewish community has allied with oppressed peoples against racism, against xenophobia, and for basic human rights, it is essential that other peoples ally with the Jewish community to oppose Anti-Semitism. The U.S. State Department's 2010 Fact Sheet on Anti-Semitism is a useful resource for identifying the problem.

The community relations field should: Work with legislators on the local, state, and national level to support carefully crafted legislative initiatives condemning domestic and international anti-Semitism. Ask interfaith and intergroup partners to condemn anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incidents in state and local communities and on the national and international level. Support government officials in their efforts to identify and confront domestic and international extremist

groups. Remind them to emphasize that political events in the Middle East or elsewhere never justify anti-Semitism. Consult with national agencies and NGOs about anti-Semitic incidents in Europe and other parts of the world, including violence, vandalism, and expressions of anti-Semitic sentiment in the media and government. Work with U.S. governmental officials to persuade the EU's Fundamental Rights Agency either to reaffirm the European Union Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia's (EUMC) working definition of anti-Semitism or to formulate a new one that recognizes both traditional forms of anti-Semitism and new forms that cross the line between legitimate criticism and anti-Semitism by demonizing and delegitimizing the State of Israel. The EUMC definition reads in part as follows: "Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities." The full definition can be found here. The JCPA Task Force on Israel, World Jewry, and International Human Rights and the JCPA Task Force on Jewish Security and the Bill of Rights should work with the community relations field to develop guidelines regarding the line between criticism of Israel's policies and anti-Semitism, and when that line is crossed—strongly informed by the EUMC definition of anti-Semitism—for adoption by the community relations field. Work with European agencies and governments toward shared goals (e.g., making clear the need for special envoys or representatives on anti-Semitism for European governments and the EU, as well as parliamentary working groups on anti-Semitism), in cooperation with European Jewish communities. Urge European officials both to reassess their legislation, law enforcement, and education approaches to anti-Semitism and to consistently and publicly speak out and denounce anti-Semitism at every turn to better address these serious and troubling issues. In countries with laws against anti-Semitism and hate speech and where constitutionally permissible, encourage governments to enforce these laws. Provide a vehicle for Jewish and other advocacy organizations to come together with campus groups to develop well-coordinated strategies for protecting Jewish students from hostile campus environments, and to support initiatives that promote Israel and the well-being of students, faculty, and staff. Jewish and other advocacy organizations should be a resource and support to students, respecting and advancing their consensus strategies. Outside groups should give high priority to de-escalating conflict while promoting a climate in which Jewish students are physically secure and able to participate fully in campus life and express political views without harassment. Work with faculty, administrators, students, alumni, and appropriate campus organizations to respond to anti-Jewish bigotry through education, programming, study of campus climate, investigation of complaints, and vigorous application of appropriate campus codes of conduct where necessary. Help campus leaders to understand as well as educate others about the spectrum from mere speech—including criticism of Israeli policies—to anti-Israel or anti-Jewish conduct that creates an atmosphere that is so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it deprives a student of access to the benefits or opportunities provided by the school. Help foster Jewish life on campus that is inclusive and diverse in opinions and activities related to the Jewish community. (2015 Plenum)

The JCPA believes that anti-Semitic acts are still a fact of life in the United States. The community relations field will continue to monitor and respond appropriately to specific anti-Semitic incidents, and just as importantly, will continue to promote diversity training and education programs, especially in public schools and on college campuses. Such programs have

proven to be effective tools for preventing discrimination and increasing tolerance and respect among different groups in American society.

The organized Jewish community also continues to monitor extremist groups that promote hatred against minority groups, including Jews, and, in some instances, foment hate-motivated violence. Armed militias, in particular, continue to pose a significant threat of violence. The JCPA believes the Internet is an especially attractive forum for extremists, because it is easily accessible, inexpensive, and not readily subject to regulation or editing. While the Jewish community is gravely concerned about this disturbing trend, hate on the Internet must be addressed in a manner that respects First Amendment free speech guarantees. The JCPA further believes that one promising response is the development of screening technology, which would provide parents with the ability to limit their children's access to messages of hate on the Internet. Such filters should be explored as they become more readily available.

The JCPA recognizes that anti-Semitism continues to be a problem on college campuses. University administrators frequently are mistaken regarding the extent to which the First Amendment compels them to allow virulently anti-Semitic views to be aired on campus, either by speakers or through publications and college newspaper advertisements. Of particular concern are the campus activities of Holocaust denier groups, which have targeted college populations to promote their ideology. The Jewish community relations field will continue to reach out to administrators, students, and newspaper editors, to educate them about anti-Semitism, including Holocaust revisionism, and anti-Zionism. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Hate Crimes in the United States

The JCPA supports passage of hate crime laws in those states without them, and supports strengthening laws in those states that now lack comprehensive laws.

The inclusion of any group in hate crime laws need not be viewed as an expression of support for that group, but rather as a recognition of the reality that certain segments of our society are subject to significantly greater incidences of hate crimes — and that hate crimes legislation speaks to our collective disdain for criminal behavior motivated by hatred towards groups or individuals because of their association with a group.

The vast majority of bias crimes are effectively addressed at the state and local level. However, in states without hate crime statutes, and in others with limited coverage, federal investigators and prosecutors must have authority to assist local prosecutions and become involved. The Local Law Enforcement Act provides this expanded hate crime response authority.

The JCPA supports expanded participation in the FBI Hate Crime Statistics Act data collection effort - including better reporting by colleges and universities. In addition, JCPA supports efforts to empower victims of hate crime to report them to authorities.

There is growing awareness of the need to complement tough laws and more vigorous enforcement with education, awareness, and training initiatives designed to reduce bias-motivated violence - especially for youth. The JCPA supports expanded efforts to promote innovative anti-bias violence training and educational outreach for schools and the community.

Our civic leaders set the tone for national discourse and have an essential role in shaping attitudes. The JCPA encourages political, religious, and civic leaders to seek opportunities to speak out against expressions of bigotry, intolerance, and prejudice intended to intimidate or teach contempt for others in our society. (2004 Plenum)

The JCPA will continue to promote a comprehensive approach to addressing anti-Semitism and other bias-motivated hatred in America, including passage and enforcement of strong hate crimes statutes at the federal and state levels, promotion of tougher gun control laws, and participation in broad multi-religious and multi-ethnic coalitions dedicated to strengthening the national will to prevent and combat hatred in all of its manifestations. The JCPA and its member agencies will also continue to play a leadership role in ensuring that the need for sound security protocols at Jewish institutions is balanced against the need to promote the openness and accessibility of those institutions for all who wish to use them. (Agenda 2000-2001)

The JCPA supports passage of appropriate hate crimes laws in the states that still do not have meaningful hate crimes statutes, and strengthening of laws in those states whose hate crimes statutes could be more comprehensive. Such legislation is necessary to send a strong message that crimes based on prejudice and hatred are anathema to the fundamental values of democracy upon which this nation is founded. The JCPA also supports efforts to encourage greater compliance with the federal hate crimes statistics act, which mandates data collection and reporting of hate crimes, and with other federal and state laws intended to combat hate crimes. (Agenda 1999-2000)

White Supremacy

On August 11 and 12, 2017, white supremacists gathered in Charlottesville, Virginia, for a large rally they called "Unite the Right." The event, which was ostensibly organized to protest the removal of a statue of Robert E. Lee from a local park, featured a torch-lit march, racist and anti-Semitic signs and chants (including "Jews will not replace us"), and resulted in the death of Heather Heyer, who was killed by a car driven into the crowd of counter protestors.

The ideology of the alt-right is based on white supremacist beliefs about the need to protect white people from what they perceive as a "rising tide of color," along with elements of anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim animus, xenophobia, nationalism, misogyny and anti-LGBTQ attitudes. Along with communities of color, many Jewish communities are main targets of white nationalist rhetoric and activity.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs rejects white supremacy and all other forms of bigotry, in consonance with the traditional Jewish belief that people of all ethnicities and creeds are created *be-tzelem Elohim*, in the Image of God; affirms the importance of exposing and rejecting the hateful message of white supremacists, including the alt-right, whenever they appear in our communities; affirms its obligation to protect and support all targets of white supremacist harassment and attacks; and recognizes that all persons must be afforded the rights guaranteed to all residents of the United States under the law, while also affirming our obligation to oppose white supremacists' hateful messages and deny them platforms to the extent consistent with the law.

The Jewish community relations field should speak out against the rhetoric and actions of white supremacists and other bigots; educate the public about the Jewish values of equality and tolerance, and why white supremacy has no place in our community; encourage reporting hate incidents to law enforcement agencies, the Anti-Defamation League, and other relevant non-governmental organizations; promote security awareness, ensure that Jewish institutions have security plans in place, and encourage appropriate training for staff, constituents and allied communities about security precautions to take in advance of any scheduled rallies or extremist events; seek out and partner with other individuals and organizations opposing white supremacy; and call upon prosecutors to recognize white supremacist violence as acts of domestic terrorism and vigorously prosecute them. (2018 Plenum)

HOLOCAUST

Holocaust

While there will not always be unanimity within the Jewish community on every facet of this controversy, the JCPA believes that its member agencies have a vital role to play in coordinating local responses to issues of Holocaust restitution.

The JCPA commends those nations that have already made significant gestures with regard to resolving restitution issues in a forthright, expeditious manner. The JCPA also commends those countries that have created historical commissions to investigate and record the details of their wartime activity, and urges those implicated nations that have not embarked on such initiatives to do so. The American government is to be applauded for setting an example through its creation of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets in the United States. Foreign governments should be urged to make relevant archives and records accessible to historians, and to continue engaging in productive dialogue with the American and Israeli governments, survivor representatives, and the Jewish community, in order to hasten the process of financial restitution. Such efforts will assist in the creation of a historical record that will be an enduring reminder of the world's indifference to, and, in some instances, direct or indirect complicity with, the Shoah. As the world focuses to an ever greater extent on the material losses incurred by Holocaust victims and their heirs, it is incumbent upon the organized Jewish community to ensure that this process does not detract in any way from the important task of educating people worldwide about broader themes of genocide, anti-Semitism, and prejudice. Increasing the quantity and variety of Holocaust education programs will help to make the Shoah meaningful to generations who will never have the opportunity to meet a Holocaust survivor in person, and for whom World War II is perhaps as remote an event as the Civil War. Renewed interest in the Holocaust undoubtedly will continue to have a profound impact on Jewish-Christian relations. Controversy surrounding the release of the Vatican's report We Remember, which attempted to address the role of the Catholic Church with regard to the Holocaust, as well as other events, such as the erection of a field of crosses at Auschwitz/Birkenau by extremist Polish Catholics and the canonization of the Jewish-born Carmelite nun Edith Stein, who perished at Auschwitz, have exacerbated Catholic-Jewish and Polish-Jewish tensions. Additionally, the organized Jewish community continues to press for the release of documents from the Vatican archives that will shed further light on the Church's activities during the Holocaust. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Holocaust Education

As the Holocaust fades further into memory and the number of first-hand witnesses and survivors dwindles year after year, we are confronted with how to preserve the memory of the victims as we again repeat our mantra, “Never Again.” It has been over 70 years since World War II ended and knowledge of the Holocaust is fading. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

A Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany survey on Holocaust knowledge and awareness in the United States released in April 2018 highlights the dwindling awareness and understanding of the Holocaust. According to the report, 11% of adults and over one-fifth of Millennials (22%) have not heard or are not sure if they have heard of the Holocaust. This lack of knowledge will continue unless Holocaust and genocide education becomes mandatory in every school in the United States. Despite the troubling gaps in awareness, 93% of respondents reported that they believe all students should learn about the Holocaust in school and a majority support improving the quality of Holocaust education.

Over the last several years, there has been a clear rise in hate, bigotry, and violence in our society, much of which is aimed at the Jewish community. Recently, the Federal Bureau of Investigation released a report which states a 17% increase in hate crimes in the United States. Of the 1,679 hate crimes motivated by religious bias, 58.1% were anti-Jewish. Holocaust and genocide education creates more teachable moments in classes that can lead to greater compassion and understanding of the devesting effects of hate.

The time is right for legislators to pass mandatory Holocaust and genocide education in schools and promote a quality curriculum. Legislators and policymakers are alarmed by the rising hate in our society. They see neo-Nazis parading in Charlottesville chanting, “Jews will not replace us.” Recently, in Pittsburgh, the deadliest attack on Jewish people in American history was perpetrated by a violent anti-Semite who yelled, 'All Jews must die" before opening fire and killing 11 people. Many legislators are also aware of the survey, which highlights the lack of knowledge of basic facts about the Holocaust. In addition, legislators should be made aware that many states have successfully implemented Holocaust and genocide education requirements in schools. In fact, curricula and materials are available online so any local school can implement them easily and for free.

It is not only Holocaust education that needs to be re-emphasized; the study of all modern genocides is lacking nationwide. While the Holocaust is the largest and most well-known and documented genocide in modern times, it is critical to teach the lessons of the Holocaust to help prevent other atrocities like those committed subsequent to the Holocaust, including in Darfur, Rwanda, Armenia, Burma (Myanmar), and others. These cases too must be studied comprehensively. Other communities that have been affected by genocide are valuable potential partners in advocating for this legislation.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that the Jewish people have a special responsibility to preserve the memory of Holocaust victims and survivors and need to ensure that “Never Again” is not just a slogan but a call to action; while each state may face its own unique

challenges, mandating Holocaust and genocide education at the state level is preferable to recommending it; Holocaust education is the most effective way to dispel any form of denial or doubt as to what happened; Holocaust education should include all modern genocides and ethnic cleansings; and State Holocaust Commissions, Councils, and local boards of education with Holocaust education specialists on staff have greatly contributed to the success of Holocaust education in states and localities where such commissions and specialists exist.

The Jewish community relations field should support federal legislation that strongly encourages Holocaust and genocide education; advocate for state legislation or school board policy that mandates Holocaust and genocide education in middle and high school. In states where this is not feasible, communities should push for legislation that strongly recommends or encourages Holocaust and genocide education; and urge local school systems to adopt competent and comprehensive curricula and provide necessary funds to train educators on teaching this subject.

The Jewish community relations field should also urge states to pass Holocaust and genocide education bills containing language that encourages the use of reputable current curricula and materials from nationally-recognized organizations used by other states; places the responsibility for funding on states, but encourages nonprofits and foundations to help raise money for the state to train teachers. This takes much of the cost away from schools and local municipalities; and measures Holocaust and genocide education by state and federal education standards.

The Jewish community relations field should also advocate to elected officials for the establishment and funding of state Holocaust Commissions or Councils and local Holocaust Resource Centers, which have been an essential component in the success of Holocaust and genocide education in states where such commissions already exist.

Assets Restitution and Needy Holocaust Survivors

The JCPA hereby asserts that as long as Holocaust survivors living anywhere in the world are lacking basic needs, including food, shelter, medical care or any other form of assistance now or hereafter deemed necessary to allow them to live out the remainder of their lives in comfort and dignity, any and all Holocaust Related Funds now or hereafter obtained, from whatever source paid and by whatever agency administered, which are not legally restricted to a specific contrary purpose, shall be promptly disbursed to or on behalf of such Holocaust survivors in order to meet such needs. To the extent that there are Holocaust Related Funds remaining after all the present and anticipated needs of such Holocaust survivors have been fully met, it would be appropriate to consider the use of such remaining funds for programs of research, documentation and education of the Holocaust, among other uses.

The community relations field should educate themselves and others about the current conditions in which many Holocaust survivors live, raise this issue in their communities to determine the extent to which local survivors are living with significant unmet needs, raise these issues with agencies involved in the determination of the needs of Holocaust survivors and the allocation and disbursement of Holocaust Related Funds to meet those needs, and encourage such agencies to involve in their determinations representatives of Holocaust survivors and professional social service agencies such as the Jewish Family and Children's Services. (February 2003)

The JCPA will continue to support efforts to resolve outstanding restitution and compensation issues as speedily as possible for the benefit of aging Holocaust survivors. JCPA member agencies will continue to play a key role in coordinating communal responses and outreach to survivors and their heirs, and in promoting policies and programs that will be sensitive to the needs of survivors and will preserve the ultimate lessons of the Holocaust. One important priority will be the passage of appropriate federal and state legislation to exempt restitution payments from taxation, as well as from income or asset calculations for means-tested public benefits programs (Agenda 2000-2001)

Long Term Health Care for Holocaust Survivors

The JCPA and its member agencies support the pilot program initiated by Florida's Insurance Commissioner and the South Florida Survivors Coalition to fund long term home health care for Holocaust survivors. A program to fund much needed home health care for Florida's survivor population from funds already placed into an escrow account by the International Commission for eventual use representing "heirless" insurance proceeds. The plan would also call for the insurers liable for unpaid Holocaust era policies to contribute to the fund. The present proposal is designed only to commit the amount of "heirless funds" that would be allocated to the State of Florida through the process.

The JCPA calls on its member agencies to explore in their own communities the same kind of pilot program for long term health care for their Holocaust survivor community. (2000 Plenum)

Nazi War Criminals

The Jewish community relations field should continue its efforts to interpret to the Congress and the public the rationale for continual investigation and prosecution of Nazi war criminals and to assist the justice Department's efforts to seek evidence and witnesses that will lead to the denaturalization and deportation of Nazi war criminals from the United States. (JPP 1990-1991)

INTERFAITH RELATIONS

The Jewish community relations field reaffirms its longstanding commitment to working consistently toward strong interfaith understanding and positive working relationships with all faith communities.

Interfaith relations are a cornerstone of community relations and an activity of highest priority. The development of coalitions on issues of common concern can build relationships and networks that, in turn, will foster greater trust and understanding. There is tremendous need for increased dialogue on matters of social policy. Community relations agencies, both local and national, and play a critical role in shaping and nurturing meaningful dialogue.

Faith groups should, as the groundbreaking Vatican declaration *Nostra Aetate* notes, understand other faiths as they understand themselves. (2008 Plenum)

Aggressive and misleading proselytization remains a profound concern. We continue to condemn as deceptive and inappropriate the use of Jewish symbols and practices in the marketing of

Christian religious groups as legitimate forms of Judaism. The community relations field should continue to monitor missionary Christian groups, including "Hebrew-Christians"; educate Jewish and non-Jewish leaders about the practices of missionary Christian activities; and assist Jewish groups to establish criteria to enable the exclusion of those groups or individuals whose purported membership is for the purpose of promoting conversion of the Jews to Christianity or for other ulterior motives antithetical to the mission of that Jewish organization or institution. (2008 Plenum, Board June 2002).

Catholic-Jewish Relations

The relationship between the Catholic and Jewish communities remains strong on the international, national, and local levels. The groundbreaking declarations made more than 40 years ago in *Nostra Aetate* have yielded, more than a generation later, a relationship that is deep and enduring. The American Jewish community welcomed a Vatican recognition in 2006 that anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism. American Jews mourned the passing of the late Pope John Paul II, a man who referred to the Jewish people as "the beloved elder brothers of the Church of the original covenant never abrogated." We welcomed the news that in his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, was chosen a man who has shown great devotion to interfaith relations. We hold great hope that the relationship between Catholics and Jews will continue to deepen, and that this relationship will help us to bridge differences over matters that have caused concern in recent years such as the status of the Fundamental Agreement between the State of Israel and the Holy See; the increased flexibility given priests to use a Latin Rite with arguably anti-Jewish prayers; and denial of full access to Holocaust era archives. (2008 Plenum)

Mainline Protestant-Jewish Relations

The Mainline Protestant churches have taken great strides to reframe in a positive manner the theological relationship between Christians and Jews. Strong statements or study guides have been developed by churches including the Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ, and other denominations belonging to the National Council of Churches (NCC). We have worked together in pursuit of the common values we garner from our shared texts and traditions. These churches remain important allies on a range of issues, including, among others, immigration, health care, poverty, and international human rights.

However, we find ourselves in sometimes bitter and often painful opposition on an issue we hold most dear: Israel and how to bring peace between Israelis and Palestinians. We call on all the churches to:

- understand and recognize the centrality of Israel to the Jewish people
- recognize unequivocally not only Israel's right to exist, but also its right to exist as a Jewish state; support for a Palestinian right of return is inconsistent with such recognition.
- advance considered approaches to the conflict that clearly recognize the need for Palestinians to dismantle any terrorist infrastructure; and not reflexively blame the State of Israel for creating the conflict, the difficult humanitarian situation of many Palestinians, and the diminishment of a Christian presence in the Holy Land.

- view the Christian Zionist community in all its diversity and not simply as "Armageddon Theorists," thus reducing to a stereotype those Christian friends of the Jewish state who come to their support for reasons other than to hasten a cataclysmic end to history.
- support efforts toward Israeli-Palestinian coexistence and peacemaking and reject unconstructive proposals such as boycotts, sanctions, and divestment.

Evangelical-Jewish Relations

The JCPA believes that increased dialogue between our communities could help each better understand the other and help build recognition of the range of issues on which Jews and Evangelical Christians are already working cooperatively: treatment of religious minorities in other lands, religious accommodation in the workplace, religious freedom restoration legislation, and social services. Where appropriate this dialogue might also address issues where differences may remain between some segments of the Jewish community and Evangelical Christians, e.g., church-state separation, the role of religion in public life, women's and reproductive health issues, and perceptions of Islam in the modern world. In short, dialogue will possibly diminish some of the objections to Jewish-Evangelical ties and the sometimes ill-informed negative stereotypes that characterize many in each community, reaffirms that its communities and agencies can beneficially pursue interaction (dialogue and/or cooperation) with Evangelical Christians (JPP 1994-1995), and that while the nature of such interaction should be molded to particular situations, our abiding objection to proselytization targeted at Jews must be clear and consistent (on Aggressive and Misleading Proselytization, June 2002), and recognizes that our interaction or partnership with Evangelical Christians on issues of common interest should not in any way affect the positions or actions of the Jewish community on issues on which we disagree.

The community relations field should, taking local and other dynamics into account, pursue expanded interaction with Evangelical Christians, seeking to learn and to teach, to confront and to cooperate where appropriate, work with the Evangelical community applying standard community relations principles in a way that strengthens America, Israel and our community, consult and involve appropriate rabbinic and Jewish organizational leaders, including JCPA, as this set of relationships develops, and explore opportunities to mobilize and harness the pro-Israel sentiments and activities of Evangelical Christians. (February 2003).

Muslim-Jewish Relations

The JCPA applauds the progress that has taken place in Muslim-Jewish relationships, including local and national dialogues that have deepened mutual understanding, that have advanced shared commitments to social justice and equality. Tensions remain and are difficult matters for community relations agencies to navigate. However, they should not necessarily preclude efforts to dialogue. Representatives of all faith communities should be held to the same standards of mutual civility, respect and recognition. Violence and hatred are never excusable.

JCPA commends those in the Muslim community who have publicly reaffirmed the peaceful principles of their faith and who have spoken clearly against interpretations of Islam that have been used to justify terrorism or anti-Jewish attitudes. While we vigorously support the efforts of law enforcement to combat terror, we recognize that some Muslim-Americans have been the target of efforts that have, at times, been overzealous. Jewish and Muslim Americans, where

appropriate, should work in coalition to advance our common commitment to civil liberties, the struggle against all forms of terrorism, racism, anti-Semitism, anti-Muslim prejudice, or any other form of discrimination or stigmatization against any racial, religious, or ethnic group. This includes expanding coalition efforts to urge public officials to take all available steps to prevent and end any harassment of and discrimination against Muslim Americans, Jews or others in our country who have been targeted by hate and discrimination. The community relations fields should also identify and confront any manifestations of bias in our own community and strive to address disagreements and community concerns in ways that promote mutual understanding and respect rather than conflict. (2009 Plenum)

We call on others to take steps which condemn, in unequivocal terms, the bigoted stereotyping, scapegoating and assaults of Muslim and Arab Americans that have occurred in the aftermath of September 11th. American Jews are especially sensitive to these immoral acts and recognize their corrupting influence on our society; deplores the bigotry emanating from some in the Muslim and Arab American communities and elsewhere that falsely accuse Jews, Israel or the so-called "Jewish controlled media" for responsibility in the September 11th attacks; applauds leaders in the Muslim community who have spoken forcefully against interpretations of Islam that have been used to justify and glorify terrorism, and urges all Muslim clergy and leaders, here and abroad, to reaffirm publicly the peaceful principles of their faith and to reject vehemently all acts of terror (2002 Plenum)

Mormon-Jewish Relations

The American Jewish community welcomes increased dialogue and understanding with our Mormon neighbors. The Mormon community has made a significant effort to reach out to American Jews, hailing a long record of support for the Jewish state. This support is warmly welcomed, too. The relationship is not without strain. There is a need to honor commitments made not to posthumously baptize Jews. The Jewish community relations should continue to engage the Mormon community and, where appropriate, form coalitions on matters of common concern. (2008 Plenum)

Other Faith Communities

The American religious landscape is continually evolving. There are growing Baha'i, Buddhist, Hindu, Jain, Sikh, and other communities. They often experience many of the same issues that American Jews have faced and continue to face as minority communities of faith. In addition, xenophobia has complicated life for minority communities. The Jewish community relations field should engage diverse religious communities and, where appropriate, form coalitions on matters of common concern. (2008 Plenum)

Misleading and Aggressive Proselytization

The increased aggressiveness of certain missionary Christian groups around the country is a matter of growing concern for the Jewish community. Utilizing misleading practices, some of these groups misrepresent themselves as Jews in an effort to enhance their proselytizing efforts. Jewish organizations and community centers have been frequent foci of these groups, as have college campuses. Particularly disturbing have been efforts to convert vulnerable populations, including recent immigrants, youth, and the elderly in nursing homes.

The leadership of each major stream of Judaism - Conservative, Orthodox, Reconstructionist, and Reform have publicly and unequivocally rejected the "Hebrew-Christian" movement's claim to be a form of Judaism, and have objected to their disguised effort to proselytize and convert Jews.

The JCPA condemns the use of Jewish symbols and practices as deceptive and inappropriate in the marketing of Christian religious groups as legitimate forms of Judaism.

The community relations field should continue to monitor missionary Christian groups, including "Hebrew-Christians", educate Jewish and non-Jewish leaders about the practices of missionary Christian activities, particularly among vulnerable groups such as new immigrants, and the elderly, urge telephone directories to enforce their rules prohibiting false or fraudulent representations in their publications and to discontinue listing "Hebrew-Christian" congregations under 'synagogue' listings, and instead place them under less misleading designations, and develop mechanisms to support, and to provide expertise to Jewish organizations and institutions including synagogues, community centers, cemetery associations, camps, schools, campus, immigrant and senior citizen groups to evaluate, and where appropriate, amend membership or admission criteria to enable the exclusion of those groups or individuals whose purported membership is for the purpose of promoting conversion of the Jews to Christianity or for other ulterior motives antithetical to the mission of that Jewish organization or institution. (June 2002).

POVERTY

Poverty and Welfare Reform

The JCPA reaffirms its commitment to fully funding social programs that are part of an overall commitment and strategy to confront poverty. The JCPA believes that: The federal and state governments have a primary responsibility for alleviating poverty and for ensuring a basic minimally adequate level of support to provide a decent living standard for the poor; Attempts to shift responsibility for social service funding either to the private sector or to the states through block grants and funding cuts place an unacceptable burden on many states already facing fiscal crisis; Poverty reduction, not just caseload reduction, should be a primary goal of welfare reform, with incentives to states to implement policies that reduce child and adult poverty rates; and, Supporting, strengthening and sustaining public schools is crucial for advancing the primary route for most children into full participation in the nation's economic, political and social life.

The community relations field should: Urge adequate federal and state funding for programs that promote self-sufficiency and reduce poverty; Call for improved access and funding for key federal non-TANF programs serving low-income families, including SNAP, childcare subsidies through the Child Care Development Block Grant, LIHEAP, Sections 8 and 202 housing, as well as such programs as Head Start, WIC, Welfare and the Social Services Block Grant; and, Work to make sure that the institution of public education is fully funded. (2005 Plenum)

As TANF and other provisions of the 1996 welfare law are reauthorized, the JCPA supports the adoption of measures to shift the focus from caseload reduction to poverty reduction, including: incentives to states to implement policies that reduce child and adult poverty rates; adequate funding to meet the challenges of an economic downturn and secure strengthened, enhanced

services for those with barriers to employment (such as domestic violence, homelessness, physical disability, mental illness, and substance abuse); modified time limit requirements (in light of economic conditions and the number of those remaining on welfare who face significant barriers to employment); modified restrictions on education and training to increase support for skill development, thereby enhancing opportunity for employment with potential for advancement; restoration of benefits to qualified legal immigrants. We also call for improved access and funding for key federal non-TANF programs serving low-income families, including SNAP, childcare subsidies through the Child Care Development Block Grant, to move toward serving all eligible children, as well as such programs as Head Start, WIC, and the Social Services Block Grant. Finally, we call for removal from TANF of 'charitable choice' provisions that omit meaningful and effective First Amendment safeguards. (2002 Plenum)

The JCPA views welfare reform as part of an overall commitment and strategy to reduce poverty. We believe the federal government has a primary responsibility for alleviating poverty and for ensuring a basic minimum level of support to provide a decent living standard for the poor. The level of government funding for welfare benefits should be brought as quickly as possible to the federally defined poverty line, with regional adjustments for differentials in living costs. Any action that would further reduce net benefits to individuals, such as taxing welfare dollars, should be rejected. Time limits on cash assistance should be contingent upon individual circumstances (allowing waivers for those with disabilities or other needs), availability of adequate education and training services, the ability of the economy to generate sufficient numbers of permanent jobs within reasonable geographic access, the needs of dependent children, and the government's capacity to provide necessary support services. The JCPA recognizes federal, state, local, private, and individual responsibility in working to develop a coordinated program of support for welfare recipients and their families. (Principles for Addressing Poverty and Welfare Reform, June 1994)

The JCPA supports the guarantee of federal workplace protections laws covering health, safety and civil rights, for workfare workers (JPP 1998-1999); opposes tax cuts while vital human services are also being cut (JPP 1996-1997).

Senior Poverty

The community relations field should advocate for robust funding of anti-poverty and service delivery programs at the local, state, and federal level that properly benefit older Americans, particularly those in high-risk categories; advocate for effective outreach programs to ensure access to housing, healthcare, dental care nutrition, home energy, and financial assistance, as well as other human needs programs; actively promote programs to decrease isolation, provide for basic social needs of seniors, and foster opportunities for community-based integration; participate in coalitions around advocacy and service delivery that promote providing assistance to low income older Americans; advocate for robust assistance needed for Holocaust survivors; educate the field and raise awareness about the challenges associated with senior poverty and the opportunities to address these challenges. (2011 Plenum).

Minimum Wage

Jewish tradition repeatedly calls for social justice, demanding that we not only feed the hungry, but also help those in need become self-sufficient. The failure of the Congress to pass legislation

raising the minimum wage has led many to advocate for legislation raising the wage at the state and local levels. This will benefit some workers, but it is no substitute for comprehensive national legislation.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes a wage earner working full time should be able to provide a minimum level of support for themselves and their family; federal legislation should set a floor, commonly agreed to approach $15/hour; the failure to require a minimum wage which keeps workers out of poverty subsidizes low wage employers at the expense of society; and the need for safety net programs, such as SNAP, affordable housing, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and Medicaid would be lessened if the minimum wage were raised to an adequate level.

The community relations field should educate about the failure of the minimum wage to keep pace with the cost of living and the fact that the minimum wage is too low to keep workers and their families out of poverty; advocate for legislation increasing the federal minimum wage to at least $15/hour by 2024, and thereafter annually indexing the minimum wage with an appropriate Bureau of Labor Statistics' cost of living index, increasing the minimum wage for tipped workers by $0.90 per year until it reaches 70% of the non-tipped wage, and then indexing it so that it remains at 70%; advocate for increases in the minimum wage at the state and local levels; and encourage Jewish organizations to institute a $15/hour minimum wage policy for all of their employees and contractors' employees. (2019 Delegates Assembly; 2014 Plenum)

The JCPA calls for a further increase in the minimum wage and supports the concept of linking the minimum wage to the annual Consumer Price Index to sustain a wage level that reflects changing economic conditions (Agenda 2000-2001).

Living Wage

The JCPA supports state and municipal legislation creating community-based living wage ordinances that make it possible for full-time workers to earn incomes above the federally defined poverty level for their community. These ordinances would apply to individuals whose wages are funded by the taxpayers, whether they are employees of governmental bodies or of government contractors, subcontractors, or recipients of other forms of government economic assistance. Such ordinances should be developed on a community-by-community basis and considered within the context of local needs and concerns. Legislation should be drawn so as not to have the unintended result of adversely affecting services to the poor. Where necessary, waivers may be provided or other special arrangements made to address any potential negative economic impact to smaller projects and to protect services to low-income constituents generally provided by nonprofit agencies that serve the poor (2000 Plenum).

Fair Pay

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: Pay discrimination is wrong; Pay disparity based on gender and on race within gender categories persists, generally and in the Jewish community as evidenced by a recent analysis of the 2012 Jewish Communal Professional Compensation Survey; The pay gap hurts women individually and it hurts their families by reducing their economic security; By institutionalizing inequality the pay gap also hurts our communities and our nation. For reasons of social justice, morality and Jewish law, we should address pay discrimination by ensuring fair pay; Measures to strengthen the Equal Pay Act

would help achieve fair pay; Paycheck fairness legislation not only addresses a civil rights injustice but also a major barrier to women's economic security throughout their lives.

The community relations field should: Support strengthening and expanding existing federal laws aimed at preventing wage discrimination; Advocate for legislation and policies that a strengthen the Equal Pay Act by taking meaningful steps to create incentives for employers to follow the law, educate, and empower women to negotiate for equal pay, and strengthen federal outreach and enforcement efforts; We support legislation that would deter pay discrimination by strengthening penalties for equal pay violations and by prohibiting retaliation against workers who inquire about employers' pay practices or disclose their own wages; Commit to advocating for laws, policies and employment practices that ensure equal pay for work of comparable worth; Work to ensure fair pay for women within our own Jewish communal institutions; Call on JCPA members to develop or participate in local equivalents of the national Jewish Communal Professional Compensation Survey and to examine their own policies to ensure that they provide fair pay. (2013 Plenum)

Budget and Tax Policy

Commensurate with the JCPA's Confronting Poverty initiative, the community relations field should oppose those state or federal tax measures and budget procedures that would restrict or impede funding for vital social services; Oppose Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) and other initiatives that threaten to paralyze state governments' ability to provide essential services; Continue to work to ensure that social services and public education are fully funded; Urge the federal government to reexamine block grant formulas to insure that states receive adequate federal funding to account for demographic changes (e.g. increasing elderly and poor populations) that occur over time and that require additional social services. (2007 Plenum)

To feed the hungry, clothe the poor, heal the sick, and educate our children, our federal government requires the resources that come from tax revenue. The JCPA calls on the Administration and Congress to enact legislation that will allow the federal government to meet its responsibilities to its citizens and to reject efforts to make permanent the recent tax cuts. (2004 Plenum)

The JCPA opposes efforts to enact a balanced budget amendment to the U.S. Constitution (1994; Resolution 1995; JPP 1995-1996, JPP 1996-1997).

Social Security Reform

The JCPA will respond to reform proposals based upon criteria in its Statement on Social Security Reform and congruent with polices of the United Jewish Communities, representing the health and human service agencies concerned with the welfare of the Jewish elderly. Among these criteria, reforms should: retain Social Security's original purpose, universal quality, and reliability; ensure all beneficiaries, including those with disabilities, receive a minimum level of financial support; retain the progressive benefit structure through which low income earners receive a higher proportion of their lifetime aggregate earnings; secure aspects of the current benefit structure which address the particular financial needs of women; ensure that any change in age of eligibility includes adjustments to address the needs of those with limited or no other source of income; not adversely affect legal immigrants and refugees (Statement June 1999).

Housing, Hunger, and Homelessness
The JCPA supports legislation with adequate funding to ensure that low-income individuals and families can access safe affordable housing, and measures to provide emergency assistance to overcrowded shelters (Agenda 1999-2000). We believe every American, regardless of income, is entitled to a safe, affordable home; that no one should be reduced to hunger in order to pay for housing; that the federal government bears primary responsibility, working with state and local government, to ensure housing is available to all who need it (Statement September 1990). The JCPA believes that SNAP should be maintained and adequately funded as a federal entitlement (JPP 1995-1996).

Affordable Housing
The JCPA calls upon the federal government to acknowledge its fundamental responsibility to ensure that all Americans have access to safe and decent housing; create a national housing policy which addresses the need for adequate and affordable housing for all; fully fund the Section 8 Housing Voucher Program so that all eligible families can access this vital assistance; ensure that the Section 8 program remains a federal priority and does not become a block granted program; provide an increase in funding for Section 202 housing to address the rapid growth of poor and frail senior citizens who would benefit from housing; call upon Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac to increase their activities and investments in affordable housing; and support the establishment of a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund to address the dearth of affordable housing, and create 1.5 million units of rental housing for the lowest income families and individuals by the end of the decade.

The community relations field should educate the public on the scope of the current housing crisis and the need for affordable housing; support local efforts to provide for affordable housing needs, including state and local housing trust funds; urge Congress to support and fully fund the Section 8 and Section 202 housing programs; additionally, urge Congress to support the establishment of a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund which would create 1.5 million units of rental housing for the lowest income families and individuals by the end of the decade; encourage Jewish individuals and institutions to join other faith communities in investing in Community Economic Development, to provide loan funds in capital-starved communities, for affordable housing; participate in faith-based coalitions that support the development of affordable housing and the prevention of homelessness; educate the Jewish community on its responsibility to ensure access to affordable housing in all geographic communities. (2004 Plenum)

Strengthening Families and Children
The JCPA supports increased investment at all levels of government in both financial and human resources to ensure that children and families are aware of and can access public and private services that provide quality, affordable childcare, health care, and early childhood education. We support: efforts to improve the quality of childcare and early education programs through increased training, higher standards, and higher compensation for childcare providers; family-friendly fiscal policies, including expansion of the Dependent Care Tax Credit, which should be increased and made refundable so that the poorest families can benefit; efforts to improve the

quality of childcare and early education programs through increased training, higher standards, and higher pay for childcare providers (Agenda 2000-2001).

Within the juvenile justice system, the JCPA supports efforts to shift emphasis away from incarceration toward rehabilitation; opposes efforts to weaken current law, or to include provisions that would harm children or place them at risk of assault and abuse in adult jails; advocates more funding for violence prevention and early intervention efforts and for strong gun control measures to help address the high death toll of our nation's children as a result of gun violence. (Agenda 2000-2001)

Sweatshops and Child Labor
In light of continuing sweatshop and child labor abuses, the JCPA resolves to: Encourage the use of independent third party monitoring programs by groups such as human rights and religious organizations that bring trained investigators to conduct independent and unannounced audits of factories and provide information on their findings to consumers; support initiatives to encourage manufacturers, including retailers who act as manufacturers, to take greater responsibility for contractors' violations, including overseas; commend industry programs that monitor production where independent monitors confirm that no sweatshop or child labor is being used; encourage purchase of merchandise from companies whose self-monitoring has been shown to be effective by independent companies; call upon the federal and state governments to provide adequate staffing and funding to enforce existing workers' protection statutes; encourage enactment of municipal, state, and federal statutes or ordinances that prohibit government agencies from purchasing goods made under sweatshop conditions; pledge JCPA participation and urge participation by constituent agencies in local and national coalitions to combat child labor and sweatshop abuses. (2001 Plenum)

Predatory Lending
The JCPA calls for efforts to educate our community members about the dangers of predatory lending; calls for passage of legislation to address the immediate home foreclosure crisis and the underlying concerns around predatory lending; urges Jewish community members to reach out to partners in their communities to address this issue; urges community members with the appropriate skills to offer pro bono assistance to victims of predatory lending who cannot afford legal counsel. (2008 Plenum)

Strengthening the Assets of Low Income Households
The JCPA calls for the federal government to help families create long-term financial assets. To that end, we call on the federal government to support:

Improved access to post-secondary education, whose role as a path out of poverty cannot be overstated. This can be achieved through expanding Pell grants, tax refund credits linked to educational savings and savings programs such as Child Savings Accounts and Individual Savings Accounts. Federal government support should include expanding opportunities for "income contingent" repayment plans and efforts to limit predatory private student loans.

A comprehensive housing policy that provides opportunities for low-income families to experience home ownership that is sustainable. It is important that such policies not undermine

sound lending practices. Federal guarantees of home mortgages, analogous to student loans, should be considered for selected, qualified individuals. Homeownership provides the largest source of wealth for most Americans, and skyrocketing rate of foreclosures has put many families at risk of poverty.

More access to credit and savings opportunities that facilitate micro-enterprise development. Entrepreneurship is a form of sustainable development that can increase the assets of an entire community and create local jobs.

The community relations field should: Educate the Jewish community and the general public on asset-poverty and policies and programs to address it; Work in coalitions to promote opportunities for homeownership, entrepreneurship and access to post-secondary education; and Urge Congress to support legislation to promote not just poverty-reduction, but a ladder of opportunity through asset-building resources, responsible credit and safe financial products for low-income and asset-poor families. (2009 Plenum)

Alleviating Hunger and Food Insufficiency

The JCPA calls upon the federal government to: Significantly strengthen and expand the federal nutrition assistance programs at a level that will move over 36 million Americans, including well over 12.6 million children, out of food insecurity and stimulate economic growth across the country. Prompt enactment of an improved Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act is imperative; Substantially streamline rules and enrollment processes and increase, creative outreach efforts and administrative improvements for program sponsors at state and community levels. These changes must be addressed to all programs, to improve the participation of low-income families and seniors in SNAP, of seniors in ENP, of mothers and young children in WIC, of school age children in School Breakfast, Lunch and Out-of-School Time programs, of schools in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program; Encourage the planting of self-help fruit and vegetable gardens, such as community gardens and home gardens (21st century "victory gardens"); Respond to periods of economic crisis by temporarily boosting benefits as well as support for states to prevent cuts in their vital support systems. In addition to improved access, we call upon the federal government to increase funding for assistance programs in order to improve the nutritional quality of meals in a time of rising food costs; Mandate appropriate and sufficient reimbursements, national nutrition standards, and provide nutrition education funding; and Take the lead in cooperation with other countries and international and non-governmental organizations to reform the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) so that donor countries' policies are not improperly favored, expand emergency responses and humanitarian assistance to food- insufficient peoples; eliminate unilateral producer-country export bans and restrictions; as necessary and appropriate; support and encourage fast-impact and sustained agriculture programs in key areas; review and revise bio-fuel policies; as necessary to reduce or eliminate their pressure on food prices; and complete the current, deadlocked round of the World Trade Organizations' negotiations concerning agricultural commodities and exports.

The community relations field should: Educate the Jewish community, the general public and public officials on hunger and food insufficiency needs and solutions among children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and other at-risk populations in the U.S. and internationally; Urge the federal administration and Congress to implement plans and take the actions indicated

above to alleviate food insufficiency generally and eliminate child hunger in the U.S. and, where appropriate, urge each state to fully implement these programs; and participate in coalitions with other local, state, and national faith, community, humanitarian, and non-governmental organizations, and engage political and community leaders to alleviate hunger and food insufficiency through education, service, advocacy and action. (2009 Plenum)

Food Sustainability and Local Food Distribution

The JCPA believes that: improved access to and affordability of fresh, nutritious, and quality foods, including organic and sustainably farmed food is beneficial to consumers. This includes not only independent consumers but also those relying on school lunches, food served in hospitals, institutions and other venues; federal nutrition assistance programs are essential tools in the fight against hunger. Barriers to participation for eligible participants should be removed and participants should be able to access benefits without shame or undue difficulty; federal nutrition assistance programs should be coupled with educational programs to assist beneficiaries in making healthy choices, in particular to combat obesity
and other forms of poor nutrition; the ability of local farmers to explore, expand and benefit from local markets and distribution, including urban agriculture projects, is important for community food security; regional and/or local food policy councils are a key model of a democratic food system and generate support for comprehensive food security; the full range of Jewish guidelines on ethical food production and consumption deserve our renewed focus.

The community relations field should: advocate for fair market access to farmers who engage in organic and sustainable agricultural practices; work with other advocates to increase participation in the range of Federal nutrition assistance programs, including the Farm to Cafeteria program which provides one time grants to connect farms and schools, the school breakfast lunch and after school food programs, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; support Community Supported Agriculture and other local food distribution systems by actively helping to link sources with distribution sites, such as community centers, schools, churches, synagogues, etc; develop a network of community gardens and other innovative gardening programs to increase demand for and sources of local foods through synagogue social justice projects, community outreach programs and schools; work with or help create local food policy councils; actively explore and work at putting into practice Jewish ethical ideals and values regarding food production and consumption, and broadly engage with the range of guidelines such as JPEG, *Hechsher Tzedek*, *yoshor*, and eco-kosher. (2010 Plenum)

Reform of the Federal Poverty Measure

The JCPA calls upon the federal government to: reform the federal poverty measure to: more accurately reflect family expenditures, adjusted for taxes paid and public benefits received as income," adjust the calculation for regional differences in cost, and provide for a periodic re-assessment of the validity of the revised measure; develop a "decent living standard" — one showing the income necessary to maintain true self-sufficiency without public or private subsidy. This will help assess not only whether families are subsisting just above the poverty line, but whether they are able to achieve economic security.

The community relations field should educate the Jewish community and the general public on the need to reform the federal poverty measure; Urge Congress to support legislation to reform

the federal poverty measure and develop a decent living standard; and participate in coalitions that support the passage of such legislation. (2009 Plenum)

Usury

JCPA believes that usury laws should be revitalized by capping consumer interest rates at reasonable levels as determined by state legislatures and Congress. The community relations field should: Educate members of the Jewish community and the general public about the need to revitalize consumer usury laws at the Federal and state levels; and advocate for consumer laws to include caps on non-commercial interest rates and to promote legislation that addresses the substitution of costs and exorbitant fees. (2010 Plenum)

Emergency Funding and Disaster Relief

The JCPA believes that emergency preparation and response must become a key priority for cities, states and the federal government, with special attention paid to populations that have historically been vulnerable to natural disasters. Plans must consider the special needs of the elderly, disabled, and other population groups that lack physical or financial resources for transportation, ongoing access to shelter, medical care, food and other life essentials that are required in preparation for and after a devastating experience such as Hurricane Katrina. These plans must also incorporate the lessons of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, which revealed inadequacies in our nation's preparedness for both natural disasters and terrorist attacks; and that; Government should ensure that qualified leadership is in place with respect to disaster management, and that the sanctity of life should be the key determining factor that drives official responses in times of crisis and natural disaster. This includes organizations such as, but not limited to, emergency response agencies such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Army Corps of Engineers.

The community relations field should encourage administration and congressional officials, and especially the leadership of both political parties, to visit both New Orleans and other affected areas in Louisiana and Mississippi. Only with a visit can one develop an appreciation for the nature and scope of this disaster; Encourage the federal government to act decisively concerning displaced people and devastated homes, and to consider seriously a Louisiana-led home rehabilitation bill like that of the Baker Bill (the Baker Bill would have created a federal housing corporation, buy devastated homes from homeowners and then re-sell them at market rates), in order for many homeowners to be able to restart their lives; Support investment in strong infrastructure in order to prevent another such tragedy by way of federal funding at the normal minimum level of 65% for both enhanced levee protection and coastal restoration, in adherence with the Louisiana 2025 Coastal Restoration Plan (this plan calls for an investment of $25 billion in coastal restoration along the Gulf Coast) as well as rebuilding the levees to withstand Level 5 hurricanes; Encourage federal authorities to work alongside state and local officials in the rehabilitation and renewal of social service, educational, and medical facilities in Greater New Orleans; Support governmental funding of critical tools for emergency support. As an example, more than four years after the 9/11 attacks, emergency officials and police enforcement officials across the United States lack devices such as satellite telephones to function effectively at a time when telephone and cellular phone services are not working; Seize the moment and lead a national conversation about our priorities and the role of the private and public spheres to protect the most vulnerable among us. This conversation should highlight the need for regionally-

focused, integrated measures, to help our neighbors and community members who lack the physical and/or financial resources for transportation, ongoing access to shelter, medical care, food and other life essentials that are required in a preparation for and after a devastating experience such as Hurricane Katrina; and, assist local leaders in planning for and implementing evacuation, rescue and relief efforts. (2006 Plenum)

The JCPA also believes that it is unacceptable in America, a nation of enormous potential and wealth, for there to exist vast swaths of impoverished people. Poverty, such as that which was thrust into the media spotlight and thus the conscience of all who witnessed the human tragedy in New Orleans, must be confronted and eliminated; the national conversation about the persistence of poverty must also address the issue of race in that it is intertwined with both the causes of poverty and with our public policy response; quality public education and the opportunity for students to graduate with skills that enable them to enter the workforce are vital to addressing the issues of poverty and economic vulnerability; emergency preparation and response must become a key priority for cities, states and the federal government, with special attention paid to populations that have historically been vulnerable to natural disasters. Plans must consider the special needs of the elderly, disadvantaged, and minority communities and address transportation, ongoing access to shelter, medical care, food and other life essentials that are more readily available to those with personal resources. These plans must also incorporate the lessons of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma, which revealed inadequacies in our nation's preparedness for both natural disasters and terrorist attacks; religiously affiliated social service providers and educational facilities can play an important role in disaster response, but the transfer of public funds to such providers must be accomplished in a way that maximizes safeguards against religious coercion, proselytization, or discrimination. Furthermore, religious providers of social services cannot take the place of government, which must be held accountable for adequately and effectively responding to disaster; the exigent circumstances of a disaster should never be an excuse to waive vital protections for workers, contractors and others. In no circumstances should any emergency changes in policy be anything but temporary and narrowly tailored; and that, investments in disaster-avoidance infrastructure and human capital must not be sacrificed to achieve short-term cost-savings.

The community relations field should seize the moment and lead a national conversation about our priorities and the role of the private and public spheres to protect the most vulnerable among us. This conversation should highlight the need for regionally-focused, integrated measures to help poor people lift themselves out of poverty. Many such programs enjoy bi-partisan support, including workforce development, job-creation strategies and access to quality education for all, such as HUD's successful Hope VI initiative, and expansion of the earned income tax credit hold accountable those leaders at the local, state and federal levels who failed to heed prior warnings about the vulnerability of the New Orleans levee system, and who failed to plan adequately for and implement evacuation, rescue and relief efforts participate in local efforts to assist Gulf Coast evacuees who choose to reside temporarily or permanently in their community support appropriate initiatives — including federal legislation — to provide necessary funding for rebuilding New Orleans and the Gulf Coast and extensions of safety net programs to sustain the victims assist local leaders in planning for and implementing evacuation, rescue and relief efforts in your community; and support investment in strong infrastructure in order to prevent another such tragedy. (2006 Plenum)

EDUCATION

Affordable High-Quality Early Childhood Care and Education for Ages Zero Through Five

Children, when born, do not choose their parents or their circumstances. No child, once born, should suffer through poverty and adversity. Every child should be viewed as equally precious and worthy.

In the U.S., a child's prospect for the future is more dependent on a parent's income and education than in any other advanced country. Rabbi Michael Rothbaum of Danville, California observes: "As Jews, who've suffered generations of personal and economic degradation, we should know better. As Jews possessed of a timeless text that links us to our economically exploited ancestors in Egypt, we should do better. And as Jews who gifted the world the concept of tzedek, of a just and fair economic order, we should be better. It is our job, our sacred task."

Recent neurological studies draw a connection between the effects of poverty on young children's brain development, such that living in poverty subjects them to additional stress and hindered development compared to their counterparts of greater economic advantage. Stress and adversity (emotional, physical, chemical) that occur before age two in the human brain result in long-term irreversible damage. Before the age of six, the brain quadruples in weight and reaches 90 percent of its adult size. The brain is the most flexible early in life and its capacity for change decreases with age.

In the United States, 38 percent of three-year-olds are enrolled in early education programs; whereas in the other 34 industrialized countries, on average 70 percent of children are enrolled The most solid evidence-based programs to support healthy infant development from high-risk poor and low-income homes include: (1) Access to high-quality early childhood education (ECE) beginning by age three, (2) developmental screening and assessment and services for children at risk for developmental delays, (3) access to affordable high-quality child care to promote greater development in low-income and at-risk children, and (4) home visitation programs for pregnant and low-income new mothers for a two-year period. These measures can minimize the effects of poverty on a young child's development and therefore help children break out of the cycle of poverty. 2 Expanding the availability of early childhood education inevitably means the influx of many children with special needs who are often overlooked, and whose care requires specialized training for existing staff as well the need for additional professional staff to address the special needs of these children. Finding quality staff is very difficult, especially given the low pay scale for early childhood teachers.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: Poverty is the highest predictor of poor developmental and educational outcomes in children. For example, children from low-income families are more likely to experience physical and emotional challenges that can lead to developmental delays and disabilities. Therefore, one of the most important actions our nation can take to reduce inequality and create opportunity is to invest in children from birth in order to stop the cycle of poverty. Programs should be available and funded by the government that

provides for: High-quality ECE for children by age three for poor and low-income families. Beginning this assistance by age three can reduce the achievement gap between groups of children. ECE can reduce the effects of risk factors on young children's development and well-being, increasing their chances of success. As we strive to increase the availability of high quality early childhood education, we should be mindful of the necessity to recruit, train, and retain talented early childhood educators. All of these professionals should receive job training and professional wages. Early and periodic developmental screening and assessment services—children do best when developmental delays are identified early and they receive the necessary treatment or intervention as soon as possible. Access to high-quality affordable child care for all children ages zero through five years in order to support the economic stability of families, especially among low-income and high-risk populations. Public and private sector policies that would expand access to affordable child services and subsidies (block grants, etc.). Home visitation programs for poor and low-income and at-risk pregnant women, expectant parents, and families with newborns and infants. These programs have been shown to be an effective way to increase the chances of a child's healthy development and educational success.

The community relations field should: Urge the federal administration and Congress to require and provide funding to create, support, and implement high-quality and affordable early childhood care and education programs for all children. Participate in coalitions to grow the visibility and availability of affordable early childhood care, education, and developmental assessment services; and advocate for robust funding for high-quality programming at the state and community levels. Partner with state and local entities that provide effective direct service home visitation education programs for high-risk poor and low-income pregnant women and mothers of newborns and infants. Educate the Jewish community on the pervasive nature of poverty as the highest predictor of poor developmental and educational outcomes in children, and on the need to make early 3 childhood care, education, and developmental assessment services available and to adequately fund these services. (2015 Plenum)

Equal Education Opportunity

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that some communities have not provided equal opportunities to all its citizens. As an organization founded on the promise to be "active in the effort to build a just society," and to "further harmonious intergroup relations in American society and promote Jewish values," the JCPA has a unique and constructive role to play in promoting quality public education for all. The JCPA should commit to the fight for equal educational opportunity and evaluate proposals for improvement of the public schools according to both their educational effectiveness and their consistency with existing JCPA resolutions and mission goals. The guarantees of Equal Protection afforded in the U.S. Constitution and many state constitutions, together with state and federal civil rights laws that enhance enforcement of these rights, continue to be important vehicles to equalize educational opportunity in America.

The community relations field should encourage the federal, state, and local governments' collection of data by states and local school districts in the field of education equity. In particular, data that are disaggregated by race/ethnicity, by gender, by race/ethnicity and gender together, by family mobility, and by socioeconomic status are needed from all school districts on indicators including educational outcomes, bullying and harassment, discipline, classroom management, corporal punishment, inclusion/exclusion issues, dropout prevention and

vocational training. Encourage research on the causes and most cost-effective remedies for educational disparities among ethnic and economic groups including the effects of lack of nutrition, health care, effective early child care and education, and stable housing on entering students, disparities in preparedness for education of entering students (e.g. vocabulary and other indicators). Encourage research on methods of school funding and distribution that meet the needs of students equitably, whether on a district, county or state level, with particular attention to schools' capacity to hire and retain high-quality teachers. Advocate for adoption of early childhood care and education programs with adequate health, nutrition, and housing support from prenatal to kindergarten admission or Grade 1, including optional parental training. Advocate for building and sustaining a well-prepared teaching force through such efforts as offering scholarships and forgivable loans for high-quality teacher education, strengthening teacher education, modernizing and streamlining certification procedures and requirements, and improving clinical training and support. Work to ensure adequate and equitable funding for education; Work to ensure adequate and equitable funding for special education services for those with disabilities. Advocate for implementation of what research has shown to be effective practices of school-community collaboration that values parental engagement, students' cultural backgrounds and lived experiences, and community resources which can improve administrator/teacher-student relationships, and increase shared accountability among students, educators and adult family and community members. Raise awareness in the Jewish community as well as the community at large about these issues and analyze the best mechanisms for community involvement and effective coalitions. Advocate for effective enforcement of federal and state constitutional guarantees of equal protection as well as state and federal civil rights laws that enhance enforcement of these rights to equalize educational opportunity in America.

Bullying

The community relations field should support training programs for educators, administrators and school personnel, adult family members, community members and youth on how to recognize and respond to bullying and cyberbullying; support education campaigns for youth to develop empathy for others, to be an ally when others are bullied, to think critically about Internet communication and to build the conflict resolution skills which are important not only face-to-face but also online; empower individual Internet users to engage in the global dialogue about cyberbullying and work together to create an environment where civil discourse conquers hate. Individuals should know how to "flag" offensive content for review, challenge hate content by posting positive messages, and look for a site's Terms of Service to see if offensive content is prohibited; encourage Internet Service Providers and social networking platforms to adopt Terms of Service that define prohibited cyberbullying and cyberhate, provision of a readily identifiable and monitored address for reporting this improper activity, and a commitment that they will review complaints in a timely manner, while remaining sensitive to First Amendment concerns; applaud federal and state efforts to inclusively address bullying under existing anti-discrimination education law, including the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights guidance issued in October 2010 on discriminatory bullying, which specifically included anti-Semitic intimidation and harassment on campus. Urge the field to promote comprehensive training and education on these efforts; Mount public awareness campaigns about the issues and avenues for response. Work to change the culture so that bullying is no longer shrugged off or a part of "growing up."; advocate for continued research into the nature and magnitude of the

bullying problem; promote resources to educators, administrators and school personnel, adult family members, community members and youth that help each learn about the issue and develop effective responses;

The community relations field should support state legislation which requires school districts and schools receiving state funds to adopt comprehensive bullying prevention policies that are proactive and responsive. The following are provisions that districts might consider for such policies, consistent with evolving constitutional limitations on regulation of student speech 1) Include a clear definition of "bullying"— specifically including bullying through electronic communication. 2) Promptly address cyberbullying initiated off-campus that creates a substantial disruption to the school's mission. 3) Explicitly prohibit bullying with enumerated categories — race, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability or another identifiable characteristic. 4) Require clear procedures for safe reporting and investigation of incidents. 5) Mandate counseling for the perpetrator and make available counseling services for the targets. 6) Mandate data collection on incidents of bullying and regular training for teachers and students about how to recognize and respond to bullying and cyberbullying. (2011 Plenum)

Jewish Day School Education

The JCPA reaffirms the October 1999 vote of its Board of Directors endorsing the significance and value of Jewish day school education and calls for increased individual and communal support for Jewish day schools. (2000 Plenum)

The JCPA encourages its local member agencies to assist and support federations in meeting the recommendations of the UJC/JESNA report, as they deem appropriate based on individual community needs. The JCPA believes that "the responsibility for solving the crisis in Jewish education lies first and foremost within the Jewish community." The UJC/JESNA report is an invaluable tool in guiding the federation system to be an important part of strengthening all forms of Jewish education in America and the JCPA strongly supports continental and local efforts to comply with its recommendations. (Board of Directors October 1999)

Public Education Policy

The JCPA remains committed to supporting, strengthening and sustaining public schools, the primary route for most children, especially poor children, into full participation in the nation's economic, political, and social life. We believe that reform of our education delivery system, including improvements in early childhood education and in programs for schools in high poverty areas requires concerted community support and that school finance equity is an essential component of excellence in public education. We support legislation to ensure that resources reach the schools that need them, to equalize education spending, restore decaying buildings, enforce higher teaching standards, reduce class size, and ensure that qualified teachers are recruited and retained for all schools. Efforts to equalize educational opportunity should include providing access at all high schools to advance placement courses designed to give students exposure to college level work, so that students applying for college admission have the same opportunity regardless of where they went to school. We support full funding for early childhood initiatives that enable children to enter school with the maximum potential to learn. (Agenda 2000-2001)

The JCPA opposes efforts to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education; supports instructional programs in values education that teach such shared values as citizenship, social responsibility and mutual respect (JPP 1995-1996). We support implementation of programs that reinforce the democratic process and build support for pluralism while respecting the rich ethnic diversity of students, their respective cultures, languages and religions (JPP 1992-1993). The JCPA opposes policies that divert resources from public schools, such as voucher programs that provide public dollars to non-public schools, whether secular or sectarian; we strongly support private funding for Jewish day school education (Agenda 1999-2000).
DISSENT: The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (UOJCA) continues to favor educational choice programs.

Charter Schools
The JCPA believes properly structured and monitored charter schools may prove to be one among several effective vehicles for public education reform. However, because these schools operate free of many state regulations, effective safeguards and adequately funded monitoring procedures must be in place to protect against abuses as well as against educational failures. The JCPA will work to ensure that charter schools meet appropriate accountability and performance criteria. Among these schools should: Establish and enforce appropriate measures for regular periodic fiscal and academic assessment; comply with federal and state anti-discrimination laws, health and safety regulations, and constitutional provisions regarding separation of church and state; be non-sectarian in program, admissions policies, employment practices and all other operations; require that teachers and students meet educational performance standards consistent with those for other public schools; incorporate adequate safeguards addressing working conditions and rights in contract and employment provisions for school employees; and provide appropriate safeguards to ensure against racial, ethnic and economic segregation and to prevent discrimination based on disability or special need. Recognizing concerns about the risk of diverting to charter schools scarce public dollars urgently needed to strengthen under-funded traditional public schools, we must work simultaneously to re-evaluate state funding formulas so local districts are not penalized when charter schools are established. (2000 Plenum)

Public School Choice
The JCPA supports "educational choice" within the public school system as one of several strategies for reform that may be effective when implemented as part of a comprehensive reform effort designed to meet the needs of varied student populations. Choice plans must be limited strictly to public schools; must not segregate or discriminate. (Statement 1992 Plenum)

Increasing Government Support for Public Higher Education
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: Education, from early childhood through post-secondary and graduate school, is a public good to be encouraged through comprehensive public policy initiatives; Affordable public higher education enabled generations of Jewish immigrants and their descendants to achieve success; Improving access to affordable public higher education is essential for upward mobility, for providing a path out of poverty and for maintaining a strong middle class; Higher education benefits not only the individual but the society as a whole, and fosters economic growth and competitiveness in an increasingly globalized economy; A greater portion of the financial burden of public higher education should

be borne by government – local, state and federal – and the cost shifting from government to individual students should be reversed; Scholarship money should be more widely available, particularly for low and moderate income students; Ways to finance the individual student's share of higher education, other than long-term, interest-bearing debt, should be developed; Public higher education institutions should give priority to controlling costs, without sacrificing quality, with the goal of lowering tuition and fees for all students;

The community relations field should: Educate to raise awareness of the reduction in public funding for higher education and the shifting of the financial burden to individuals and families who lack the resources to undertake the burden; Educate to raise awareness of the growth and crippling effects of increased student debt on individuals and families; Educate to raise awareness of the high student debt burden on economic growth and on the allocation of resources; Advocate for an increase in the proportion of the cost of public higher education to be borne by state and local governments and for a decrease in the proportion of that cost to be borne by individual students and their families; Advocate for alternative means for individual students to finance their education expenses, such as grants or working after graduation in underserved areas or fields, and to call for creativity in developing fiscally-prudent programs that afford students flexibility in loan repayment of tuitions and fees over the course of one's work life; Advocate for new student loan forgiveness and forbearance programs to further reduce the crippling burden of student debt. Educate to raise awareness of the impact to the most vulnerable student populations by recent changes in Federal Pell grant funding. (2014 Plenum)

IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The JCPA supports an equitable immigration policy that protects the human rights of all newcomers and the civil liberties of every U.S. resident; generous levels of refugee admissions and full funding for refugee slots, including those for Jews from the former Soviet Union; a further extension of the Lautenberg Amendment. We support full restoration of public benefits and civil liberties protections for legal immigrants, refugees and asylees. This includes initiatives to expand eligibility for SSI, Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for legal immigrants who entered the country after the welfare law's enactment and the restoration of due process protections undermined by current law for legal immigrants and asylum-seekers, particularly with regard to expedited removal. (Agenda 2000-2001)

The JCPA supports an open, fair and timely naturalization process that reduces the application backlog without impeding access to those legitimately seeking to naturalize, or further restricting eligibility for citizenship (Agenda 1999-2000). While we support proposals to separate INS service and enforcement functions to improve accountability and clarity of mission, there must be strong leadership and coordination of the two functions to ensure consistent, unified immigration policy (Agenda 2000-2001).

The JCPA opposes "English-Only" initiatives, which can deny foreign-born citizens equal access to the rights of all citizens. We support increased availability of "English-as-a-second-language" and other training programs to help immigrants and refugees move into mainstream American life (JPP 1990-1991).

The JCPA supports immigration policy that retains family reunification as its basis and provides additional immigration slots for special skills (JPP 1991-1992). We support an open admissions policy that maintains the pluralistic character of American society and does not prefer one national group at the expense of another; we oppose the use of rigid caps on entry to the U.S. (JPP 1990-1991). While the JCPA supports humane measures to control illegal immigration, we oppose a national identification card system as violating privacy rights and civil liberties (JPP 1995-1996). We oppose use of employer sanctions to prevent employment of undocumented workers, believing it fosters discrimination against minorities whom employers may regard as "foreign" (JPP 1992-1993).

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

The JCPA believes that recognizing that nations have the right and need to secure their borders and that national security is of critical importance: a) The United States has a valid national interest in promoting the rule of law, securing borders and excluding those who engage in criminal or terrorist activity; b) The U.S. should develop effective, reasonable and consistent security standards, to be applied to those wishing to enter as well as to those who are already here, whether legally or illegally; and c) The U.S. should allocate sufficient resources for the enforcement of immigration laws. Recognizing the inherent value and uniqueness of all individuals, their diverse origins, and the contributions that they can and do make to this country, many who migrate to the United States, are, for the most part: a) Hardworking and willing to endure great personal sacrifice to improve their circumstances; b) Devoted to family values, seeking to provide a better future for their children, and committed to educating their children; and c) Open and eager to embrace American culture and values, while preserving the culture and values of their countries of origin. Recognizing that the United States was founded by individuals who came here in search of religious and political freedom and economic opportunity, and based upon the ethical imperative to 'welcome the stranger,' United States policy should make every effort to: a) Institute uniform, compassionate and humane protocols and criteria to process refugee and asylum claims, so that those fleeing persecution are protected; and b) Be accessible and welcoming toward those who wish to come here to work and live.

In view of the core American principles of equality, fairness and due process of law: a) Those entering the country legally with the intention to settle here permanently should not be subject to a delayed process as a result of any administrative procedures or legislative changes; b) A rational, timely, and judicious mechanism should be developed to establish immigrants' status; c) Punitive measures that criminalize actions by immigrants, social service providers, and others—actions that would not otherwise be prohibited—are unrealistic, potentially discriminatory, and harmful to individuals and communities; d) Undocumented workers are vulnerable to exploitation in the workplace and should be afforded appropriate protection as to working conditions and standards; e) A family reunification policy should be implemented to eradicate the prolonged and inhumane separation of family members: children and parents, spouses, and siblings.

Recognizing that the United States has an interest in economic growth and revitalization: a) A rational system of immigration fosters entrepreneurship, attracts productive workers, and helps the nation maintain its competitive edge; b) When those presently undocumented become "legal," their contribution to the U.S. economy through work, paying taxes, and buying goods

and services is enhanced; c) For the U.S. to remain on the cutting edge in the sciences, the humanities, and the arts, and to foster the cross-cultural exchange of ideas that enriches our society, U.S. policy should be welcoming to students, researchers, academics and artists; and d) Any changes in immigration laws must not erode the ability of American citizens to compete fairly for jobs at all skill levels. Recognizing the American commitment to democracy and to the democratic decision-making process: a) Those individuals and groups who will be most affected by U.S. immigration policy should have an opportunity to be represented in the reform process; and b) The Jewish community should continue to work in coalitions and partnerships with these individuals and groups and should participate actively in the reform process.

The Jewish Community Relations field should work to ensure that the U.S. develops reasonable, consistent, and effective security standards that will promote U.S. national security; participate in coalitions and partnerships with individuals and groups in the immigration reform process; work to ensure that those entering the country legally with the intention to settle here permanently are afforded a reasonable, effective, and judicious process, and that a rational and timely mechanism be developed to establish immigrants' status; work to develop a family reunification policy to eradicate the prolonged and inhumane separation of family members, such as children and parents, spouses, and siblings; work to ensure that U.S. policy will grant asylum and protection to refugees and be accessible to those who need refuge from persecution; create a high-level office within the Department of Homeland Security to oversee all issues relating to asylum and expedited removal; allow all asylum applicants to appeal their claims to an immigration judge in order to reduce the risk that those claiming asylum are deported unjustifiably; establish detention standards appropriate for asylum seekers and seek alternatives to detention; promulgate regulations to promote consistent implementation of parole criteria; eliminate the arbitrary one-year deadline for filing asylum claims; and Reject further erosions of asylees' rights in the United States.

The community relations field should follow these strategies to implement Immigration Reform: Participate in coalitions and partnerships with other community groups; Work with local, state and national legislators whenever possible; JCPA and its members should continue to work with organizations such as HIAS, AJC and others already committed to immigration reform, and engage other organizations that would potentially be interested in participating; Work with all synagogue movements and streams of Judaism; Engage in efforts and activities to combat stereotypes about immigrants; Work to ensure that employers abide by state and federal laws with respect to misclassifications of employees, workers compensation insurance, and workplace health and safety regulations. (2007 Plenum)

Our American-Jewish values necessitate confronting difficult immigration challenges facing our country and our community. At present, one of the most critical issues is the problem of undocumented migration to the United States. The JCPA believes that the United States should maintain support for fair and generous legal immigration policies as an expression of our country's core values of refugee protection, family reunification and economic opportunity. Unlike in previous cases where the United States government tried to curb the flow of undocumented migrants coming to the United States to find work, a Comprehensive Immigration Reform program, accompanied by a commitment to enforcement, has a great chance of being effective. Efforts to respond to the problem of undocumented migration must recognize the

economic realities that underlie this flow of migrant workers, and the United States' security needs that necessitate differentiation between individuals arriving for economic opportunities and those who seek entry to threaten American lives as dangerous criminals or terrorists. Comprehensive Immigration Reform proposals should respond to this challenge in a manner that respects the human dignity and human rights of those who wish to enter. Such efforts should include programs that will simultaneously recognize economic realities and apply the labor rights and legal remedies to documented and undocumented individuals. They should also create opportunities for undocumented workers to earn legal status while providing needed labor in the United States. New legislation should aim to actually penalize the employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers, rather than the current situation in which the greatest impact is jeopardizing the status of those workers. Finally, they should address the longstanding problem of unacceptable backlogs in the family reunification visa categories.

The community relations field should educate to raise awareness of current immigration policies, their consequences including humanitarian issues at the border crossings, and factors that contribute to associated risks for migrant workers; Monitor legislative proposals and advocate for Comprehensive Immigration Reform — that addresses flow across the border, earned legalization and family visa backlogs — that effectively values human dignity and allows enforcement resources to be focused on dangerous criminal or terrorist migrants; Work with interfaith and ethnic communities in coalitions to advance Comprehensive Immigration Reform; Encourage the successful acculturation of new immigrants that includes an appreciation for American democratic institutions, patriotism, and constitutional principles that we all hold dear, including equality under the law and due process; Work with the Administration and Congress to shape Comprehensive Immigration Reform. While we applaud the President's January 7, 2004 speech as it reflects the contributions of both documented and undocumented immigrants, and a need to fix a broken system, this initial proposal falls short in helping these newcomers become fully integrated into our society; Call on the Administration, Congress, the Jewish Community and all Americans concerned about the country's future to recommit to the complex process of developing a comprehensive proposal to reform United States immigration laws that will insure that our immigration system is secure, more humane, and free from stereotyping and xenophobia. (2004 Plenum)

Political Asylum Protection

The JCPA believes that the U.S. political asylum system is a vital source of protection for thousands of victims of persecution who turn to the United States with hope for a new and secure future, including Jewish asylum applicants from the former Soviet Union, Iran, and elsewhere, and women fleeing "honor" crimes and other gender-based violence; While homeland security concerns require the evaluation and, in some instances, modification of immigration programs, it is inappropriate to play on people's justifiable fears of terrorism to undermine important mechanisms in our country's humanitarian programs. It is particularly inappropriate to argue for dramatic restrictions on asylum on the basis of old cases in which applications were made prior to the 1995 asylum reform regulations, in which asylum was not granted, or where there is no concrete evidence of a terrorist act as proof that asylum must be dramatically restricted. In fact, U.S. law specifically prohibits a grant of asylum to anyone who has been convicted of a particularly serious crime, including any of the broad range of crimes designated as aggravated felonies under the immigration laws, and constitutes a danger to the community; has committed a

serious nonpolitical crime abroad; is or may reasonably be considered to be a danger to the security of the United States; or has engaged in terrorist activity. Additionally, the Immigration and Nationality Act provides that "asylum cannot be granted until the identity of the applicant has been checked against all appropriate records or databases maintained by the Attorney General and by the Secretary of State…to determine any grounds on which the alien may be inadmissible to, or deportable from, the United States, or ineligible to apply for or be granted asylum"; Asylum seekers should continue to receive protection from the United States, and that Congress and the Administration should work together to improve the climate for the adjudication of their claims. Specifically, the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security should provide greater protection to and access to resources for women fleeing domestic violence, sexual assault, forced prostitution, honor killings, female genital mutilation, and other types of gender-based persecution. Additionally, other reforms that should receive strong consideration are proposals to eliminate the arbitrary annual caps on adjustment of status for asylees and on full asylum for victims of coercive population control; to eliminate the one year filing deadline and allow asylum claims to be judged on their merits; to provide greater access to parole for asylum seekers who can demonstrate to an Immigration Judge that they are not dangers to the community or flight risks; and to provide all applicants with full opportunities to present their claims to an Immigration Judge instead of deporting them without a hearing through the expedited removal system; Congress and the Administration should continue to seek additional legal protection mechanisms to assist vulnerable migrants — such as women and children — as has been done through the Violence Against Woman Act (VAWA).

The community relations field should work in coalitions to ensure that the public receives accurate information about both the humanitarian needs served by the U.S. refugee and asylum programs and about any possible issues for reform are fully appreciated by the public; Work to promote greater refugee or asylee protection for women, religious practitioners and other victims of violence and persecution; Oppose efforts to misrepresent the impact of the asylum system on national security as a justification for efforts to reduce protection for asylum seekers; and support the reform of any factually-supported and legitimate problems with the asylum system that are identified. (2005 Plenum)

Birthright Citizenship

The JCPA believes that important battle lines are being drawn both in Congress and state by state on the matter of birthright citizenship which is of vital concern to our interests and moral imperatives. Immigration and citizenship matters belonging exclusively within the purview of the federal government are being urged upon the states in an explicit challenge to our constitutional structure provided in the Fourteenth Amendment and Article VI.; Efforts to amend the federal Constitution or to interpose state legislation to force a judicial challenge to settled law concerning the meaning of the Fourteenth Amendment pose a profound danger to the rights of citizens, to the ability of all of our citizens to prove their citizenship without undue administrative burdens, and to our country's core values. Often politically motivated, these efforts threaten to undermine our historic role as a welcoming nation, attracting the finest minds in the world to become productive, innovative citizens here without distinction in class or rights from those who are native born or whose ancestors immigrated earlier.

The community relations field should make a high priority of educating our community and, in

partnership with others, the general community as to the dangers of amending the birthright citizenship provisions of the Fourteenth Amendment, the lack of justification for such amendments, the value of these provisions as a unique expression of the American Dream, the administrative difficulties that the proposed amendments would cause, and the dangers of state legislative resolutions calling for a constitutional convention to amend the Constitution to eliminate or limit birthright citizenship; and oppose efforts in Congress, or in State legislatures, or by initiative petition to amend or circumvent these provisions, to challenge their settled interpretation through costly and frivolous litigation or to call for a constitutional convention. (2011 Plenum)

Immigration Enforcement

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that based on the American and Jewish values to which we strongly adhere, we urge that immigrant rights, worker rights, civil liberties, pluralism, and fair treatment must be essential components of U.S. immigration enforcement; U.S. immigration law and policy must be consistent with humanitarian values and with the need to treat all individuals humanely and with respect; the United States must have measures in place to effectively determine who may legitimately enter and remain in the U.S., as well as identify and prevent the entry of those who are dangerous and who pose a risk to our national security. These safeguards should not be made at the expense of civil, worker, and human rights; Immigration is a national issue and a federal responsibility. Federal agencies empowered to implement and oversee our nation's immigration laws have the sole responsibility for immigration enforcement, and state and local law enforcement agencies are responsible for the enforcement of state and local laws and the keeping of the peace. Federal authorities may seek the assistance of state and local law enforcement in certain defined circumstances. The firewall between federal and state and local law enforcement is essential to preserving the advances made in community policing across the country that have helped to establish trust between law enforcement and immigrant communities and have made our communities safer. Recent immigration measures that enhance the ability of state and local law enforcement officials to identify, apprehend, and penalize undocumented immigrants are of concern. Such measures infringe on civil, worker, and human rights and inappropriately delegate to state and local governments the responsibility properly vested with the federal government and may lead to racial profiling. States and localities should not enact laws that could lead to discrimination against immigrants. These include laws that would require employers, landlords, and others to report or otherwise penalize those without valid immigration status. Laws that encourage such discrimination are fundamentally at odds with the strong public policies embodied in federal and state anti-hate crimes legislation. Close cooperation between local law enforcement and immigrant and minority groups is essential to ensuring community safety. Immigration enforcement actions in homes and workplaces can cause needless trauma and hardship, separating families and threatening the basic rights of immigrants and U.S. citizens alike. Immigration enforcement actions conducted in homes and workplaces should be narrowly tailored, respect human rights, and be conducted in a manner consistent with due process.

The use of immigration detention, especially with respect to vulnerable groups and those seeking asylum, should be reduced. Detention conditions should be improved by enacting clear, enforceable reforms that include rigorous medical treatment standards and increased access to pastoral care, legal counsel, and legal orientation programs. The government should expedite the

release of those who pose no risk to the community and expand the use of community-based alternatives to detention, which are more humane and cost effective; The INA 287(g) program, which authorizes the U.S. Department of Homeland security to delegate immigration enforcement authority to state and local law enforcement agencies, has led to widespread misuse of local law enforcement in civil immigration matters, resulted in racial profiling, and has caused substantial harm to the principal of community policing. The INA 287(g) program should be discontinued; The history of the anti-immigrant and anti-Semitic sentiment directed at our parents and grandparents puts in stark relief for American Jews how immigration can become a flashpoint for hateful anti-immigrant rhetoric. We are concerned that public frustration with the current failed system has served as a vehicle for racist, nativist and extremist groups to blame immigrants for all of our country's problems, and that rhetoric that plays on fear is taking hold in parts of the mainstream community and fueling policies and laws that legalize discrimination against immigrants; Effective enforcement can only be accomplished as part of comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level. Congress must enact legislation that brings undocumented immigrants currently in the United States out of the shadows by providing a pathway to legal status, creating safe and legal avenues for future flows of immigrants, reuniting families, integrating newcomers into our communities, and establishing border protection and enforcement policies that enhance our national security. By legalizing eligible undocumented immigrants, enforcement resources can be targeted more effectively at those who wish to do us harm.

The Community Relations Field should advocate for comprehensive immigration reform and measures which bring undocumented immigrants currently in the United States out of the shadows by providing a pathway to legal status, creating safe and legal avenues for future flows of immigrants, reuniting families, integrating newcomers into our communities, and establishing border protection and enforcement policies that enhance our national security; Develop practical recommendations for policy makers, including administrative changes, in the absence of legislative reform; Oppose efforts at the federal, state, and local level to empower state and local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws; Oppose efforts by state and local jurisdictions to enact legislation that discriminates against immigrants. Speak out against harmful rhetoric and hate speech that scapegoats immigrants and incites hate crimes against immigrants and those who appear to be foreign; Seek out opportunities to help build relationships among law enforcement, immigrant communities, business owners, community, labor, and faith leaders to promote understanding of both the complex challenges and the great societal benefits of immigration, and work toward positive solutions that are inclusive and reflect our history as a nation of immigrants. (2011 Plenum)

LABOR

The Right to Form Unions and Bargain Collectively

The JCPA believes that collective bargaining is a vital public good that makes for a more just, fair, open and democratic society and workers should not be impeded in their efforts to organize. The National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), enacted by Congress in 1935, remains an essential cornerstone of workers' rights, setting forth fair procedures for collective bargaining, prohibiting employers from discriminating against employees who take part in union or collective activities,

requiring employers to bargain with the appointed representative of its employees, regulating what tactics each side may employ to further their bargaining objectives, and establishing procedural guidelines on good faith bargaining.

Therefore, the Community Relations field should work with members of the Congress so that U.S. law will allow workers to freely choose unions without interference, threats or coercion; establish strong penalties when employees' rights to organize and bargain are violated, including timely injunctive relief and meaningful monetary damages. The field should also support efforts of local unions and workers in their efforts to secure better working conditions for themselves and their co-workers, in accordance with long standing principles of Jewish community relations. (2004 Plenum)

Wage Theft

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: The highest form of *tzedakah* is to provide someone with a job that allows one the ability to live independently; A low-wage earner working full-time should be able to provide a minimum level of support for him or herself and his or her family; Wage theft contributes to food insecurity, to homelessness, and to the weakening of the middle class; Indirect victims of wage theft include honest employers seeking to compete with wage cheats and government agencies deprived of payroll tax revenues; The failure to enforce wage theft statutes perpetuates poverty, creates unfair competition, and burdens the social safety net; and Enforcing strong anti-wage theft legislation promotes business interests as it allows all businesses to compete on a level playing field.

The community relations field should:

- Educate about the ineffectiveness of wage and hour legislation to combat the current epidemic of wage theft.
- Educate about the effects of wage theft on all workers and their families.
- Advocate for an increase of funding for federal, state, and local agencies that enforce wage and hour regulations, and enforce outstanding judgments against employers who owe money to their employees.
- Advocate for state and local legislation or contractual requirements that make wage theft offenders ineligible to receive permits, licenses, and government contracts, and suspend existing permits until violators come into compliance. Advocate generally for more effective legislation and enforcement mechanisms.
- Encourage district attorneys to prosecute egregious wage theft cases, and local governments to record wage liens where possible.
- Encourage local governments to support community-based and legal service organizations that help victims file complaints.
- Assist in the development of educational programs for employers and employees in the community to inform them of relevant state and federal laws regarding wage theft. (2016 Plenum)

Paid Sick Leave

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: Lack of paid sick days not only raises issues of job security and worker justice, but issues of public health as well. Workers who interact with the

public every day—among them food and public accommodation workers, as well as workers in child care centers and nursing homes—disproportionately lack paid sick days. Workers without access to paid sick days are 50 percent more likely to report to work while sick than their counterparts with paid sick days. Lack of paid sick leave therefore increases the risk of spreading disease, often to those most vulnerable: children, the sick, and the elderly. Paid sick days are of particular importance to women who are over-represented in low-wage jobs (typically lacking such leave) and are most likely to act as the family's primary caregiver as well as the one most responsible for handling doctors' appointments and follow-up care for their children. Paid sick days standards have been proven to help businesses reduce turnover and improve worker productivity. The costs of replacing workers, including advertising positions, interviewing, and training replacements, are often greater than the cost of paid sick time to retain existing workers. Since 2007, a year after San Francisco implemented a paid sick days law, job growth has been consistently higher in San Francisco than in neighboring counties that lack a comparable law.

The community relations field should: Support and advocate for legislation that guarantees employees reasonable paid sick leave to attend to their own health and the health of their families; Build coalitions and engage in campaigns to support paid sick days; and Urge our own local and national agencies to examine their employment and contracting practices to implement the goals of this resolution and set an example for their communities. (2015 Plenum)

Collective Bargaining in the Public Sector

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that the right to collective bargaining in the public sector should be preserved or returned throughout the United States; collective bargaining is a crucial way to improve the relationship between employees and employers, and promotes fairness and democracy in the workplace; collective bargaining, by improving the wages and working conditions of public sector employees, has allowed public employers to attract and retain higher quality workers who provide better services to the public; collective bargaining rights in the private and public sector are inextricably related so that weakening the rights in one has a negative effect on wage and benefit standards in the other as well; focusing on unions and eliminating or diminishing public employee bargaining rights will not solve the complicated fiscal problems of governments. While collective bargaining does not guarantee outcomes, the absence of public unions does not ensure deficit reductions.

The community relations field should: support collective bargaining, work in coalitions, and articulate Jewish perspectives in favor of collective bargaining by all employees, be they public or private; vigorously work with members of Congress and members of state legislatures and local governments to resist all efforts (legislative, ballot initiatives, etc.) to undermine or eliminate the right of public employees to engage in collective bargaining. (2012 Plenum)

Government Workers' Right to Unionize

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs: Affirms that the right to bargain collectively at the state and local government level must become a federally-protected right; Calls on Congress to adopt legislation to: require states and localities to guarantee the right to collectively bargain over wages, hours, and terms and conditions of employment; the right to strike (with few exceptions); access to dispute resolution forums such as mediation or arbitration; voluntary payroll deductions for union dues; and the right to enforce these rules in court; and Affirms that the worker rights in

the 1978 Civil Service Reform Act should extend to all federal employees and that attempts to curtail such rights through the executive branch should be rejected.

The Jewish community relations field should advocate at the state and local level for legislation that guarantees the rights outlined above. (2020 Delegates Assembly)

HEALTH CARE

The JCPA supports development of system-wide approaches to assuring quality, affordable health care coverage, including mental health care, for individuals and families, regardless of income; legislation to regulate managed care that assures accessible quality health care coverage consistent with JCPA Principles on National Health Care Coverage (Resolution, Board of Directors June 1993); "Return-to-Home" legislation; and legislation to prevent genetic-based insurance and employment discrimination and to ensure the confidentiality of medical records. Any restructuring of Medicare must ensure the program's fiscal integrity and the well being of beneficiaries. Reforms must take into account the special needs of the Medicare population, including the need for coordinated, high quality care for people with chronic illness, available in all delivery settings, both managed care and fee-for-service, and the need to make prescription drug coverage more affordable. Seniors with the desire and capacity to remain in their homes should be able to do so and receive home health care under Medicare. (Agenda 2000-2001; Resolution October 1998; Resolution June 1997) Medicare and Medicaid must remain entitlement programs with adequate funding; Medicaid must remain available universally to the poor and disabled. (Agenda 1998-99)

The JCPA continues to support with ever greater vigor the JCPA's previous resolution calling for universal access to health care, supports efforts by Sens. Hatch (R-UT) and Wyden (D-OR) to establish a Citizens Health Care Working Group to facilitate public debate and plans to improve the health care system for Americans and joins the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the California Endowment, and their national partner organizations in supporting Cover the Uninsured Week, a week-long educational and advertising campaign to bring attention to the needs of those lacking access to affordable health coverage.

The community relations field should urge Congressional representatives to support legislative efforts to enact universal health care, participate in health care community meetings sponsored by the Citizens Health Care Working Group, educate the public on the lack of affordable health coverage, especially among working families, and join local coalitions supporting and participating in Cover the Uninsured Week and other similar activities, including town hall meetings, teaching events on campus, health fairs and interfaith events. (2003 Plenum)

Long Term Care and Support Services for the Elderly

The JCPA affirms its commitment to working for the development and implementation of creative national and statewide policies that provide quality, affordable long-term care services, consistent with principles of affordability, consumer choice, availability of both in-home and community-based care, and adequate caregiver support. We support: educational efforts to increase awareness by Congress and the Administration of the limitations in current national health care insurance programs, not designed to provide adequate long term care services;

redesign of Medicaid and Medicare programs, through appropriate legislation, to ensure greater choice, access to information about options, and increased access to and availability of in-home and community care, strong consumer protections and public accountability for public dollars; stronger state and federal efforts to ensure promotion and availability of quality, affordable private insurance programs for young and older Americans alike; initiatives to ensure the ability of older adults to access religiously and culturally appropriate housing, home care, hospice, acute care and long-term care facilities; federal and state government support for innovative social and health service programs for the elderly, including those that integrate social services and housing for the elderly population; Increased funding of affordable housing for low and moderate-income older adults and related support services; new options for covering and containing some portion of the cost of prescription drugs; increased support for caregivers; increased funding for elder abuse investigation and services, education and outreach; full and adequate funding for services provided under the Older Americans Act; federal and state initiatives, including training and competitive salaries, to address the underlying causes of elder care staffing shortages, particularly with regard to nursing shortages. (2001 Plenum)

Mental Health

The JCPA supports Federal and state legislation to require parity between physical and mental health coverage by health insurance carriers, both private and public, increased funding for mental health services, as well as for mental health research and the development and testing of innovative mental health programs, greater government and community support for assistance to family caregivers who struggle to coordinate services from numerous public and private sources, state legislation to provide funding to fully implement the Olmstead Supreme Court decision to provide community based treatment for those with mental illness when placement in a less restrictive setting is appropriate, government integration and coordination of quality housing and mental health systems to provide comprehensive assistance (including access to a variety of affordable housing options from independent living arrangements to supported or supervised arrangements), an end to unlawful workplace discrimination against those with mental illness, in fact as well as in law; government development of additional programs to aid qualified workers with mental illness in returning to the workplace, and to assist employers in working with them, mechanisms to ensure that those who are incarcerated and suffer from mental illness receive appropriate and humane treatment; placement of nonviolent, mentally ill criminal offenders in community-based mental health programs, law enforcement agency policies, practices, and specialized training to help police and corrections officers deal appropriately with individuals with mental illnesses, greater government attention to the youth within the justice system, and the need for increased funding for community-based treatment programs for this population, greater resources devoted to “problem-solving courts”, whose charge will be to holistically address the needs of mentally ill defendants, a coordinated system of care for children and teenagers with mental health problems emphasizing early recognition, prevention, and intervention, and in those states and federal jurisdictions that retain the death penalty, exclusion of people with mental illness from consideration for a death penalty sentence,

Further, the JCPA calls on Jewish communal organizations and agencies to provide health coverage for employees that guarantees parity in mental health coverage, and participate in communal efforts to de-stigmatize mental illness, to provide accurate information about mental

health problems, improve public awareness of effective treatment, and encourage individuals to seek help. (Board of Directors, June 2002)

In keeping with longstanding opposition to capital punishment, we oppose efforts to expand the category of crimes punishable by the death penalty and to unduly restrict a prisoner's ability to file habeas corpus petitions. (June 1995)

The Environment and Public Health

The JCPA urges Congress to create a Nationwide Health Tracking Network to be housed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to give the Centers the authority necessary to establish a comprehensive, national repository of information about the incidence of disease. All feasible actions to ensure that personal health information is kept strictly confidential must be required by law and their implementation carefully monitored. Only aggregate information should be made available to individuals, communities and researchers. The Centers must also be given the mandate and necessary funds to conduct investigations of possible connections between diseases and environmental factors. (2003 Plenum)

Sexual Education in Public Schools

The JCPA believes that public schools have an obligation to provide young people with accurate and effective sexuality education and, therefore, that current, ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage sexuality programs in public schools should be replaced by comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate sexuality education that does not promote any particular religious viewpoint on sexuality.

The community relations field should support legislation at the state and federal level that provides funding for, and addresses comprehensive sexuality education in the public schools, advocating to have any abstinence only programs broadened to include comprehensive sexuality education. (2008 Plenum)

Stem Cell and Therapeutic Cloning Research

Society today stands on the threshold of a new era in biomedical research. A debate has emerged in American society at large and among our elected leaders as to whether public policy should permit, encourage, restrict or ban the further conduct of this biomedical research. The community relations field should support: Research using embryonic stem cells including those developed through Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer (SCNT); Government funding for such research; Efforts by the scientific community to develop regulations and monitor those using SCNT technology; Appropriate legislative actions consistent with the above objectives, including legislation that encourages the development of new stem cell lines in addition to the existing stem cell lines already approved for funding by the federal government; The creation of a fully funded and empowered oversight body comprising of scientists and ethicists to monitor this research, paying special attention to ensuring that the research is restricted to stem cells of very early embryonic development, prior to implantation in a uterus. The community relations field should oppose efforts to restrict or penalize scientists, clinicians, or patients for participating in stem cell research and SCNT technology for therapeutic purposes. (2005 Plenum)

Medicaid

Out of a concern about efforts to restructure and reduce funding in the Medicaid program, the JCPA reaffirms our historic commitment to the appropriate funding of Medicaid as an entitlement program and our opposition to funding Medicaid through block grants to the states.

Commensurate with JCPA's Confronting Poverty initiative, the community relations field should: join other advocates in opposing devolving Medicaid to the states; support the federal and state governments' obligation to assure adequate and affordable health care coverage, including prescription drug benefits, for all individuals and families, in need; oppose efforts to cut, cap and block grant Medicaid; Oppose legislative efforts that might end the Medicaid entitlement; encourage agencies and governmental departments to explore alternatives, which will provide needed Medicaid services more effectively. (2005 Plenum)

Domestic and Sexual Violence

Intimate partner, domestic, and sexual violence affect our society at an epidemic level. In their lifetime, an estimated 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced physical violence by a partner, and an estimated 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have experienced some form of sexual violence.

Domestic and sexual violence include a variety of abusive behaviors, including physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual assault, and stalking. Domestic and sexual violence can occur in any type of relationship, including between spouses, intimate partners, dating partners, parents and children, siblings, extended family members, teachers and students, or caregivers and patients. Unfortunately, domestic and sexual violence can occur in any community and impact people of all ages, genders, religions, and sexual orientations.

Domestic and sexual violence remain seriously underreported crimes. Survivors continue to face obstacles, including shame, stigma, harassment, and disbelief or denial. Police and criminal justice responses to reported crimes can be inadequate, ineffective, and even harmful.

Domestic Violence – Over 10 million people experience abuse every year in the United States. Women ages 18-34 experience the highest rates of domestic violence. A weapon is used in 19% of domestic violence incidents. Firearms are a particular risk factor for domestic violence fatality: the presence of a gun in an abusive relationship raises the risk of homicide for a female victim by 500%. Domestic violence has serious impacts on a victim's physical and mental health, with only 34% receiving medical care for abuse-related injuries. Victims are also at increased risk of depression and suicidal behavior.

Sexual Violence – 1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been the victim of sexual assault or attempted sexual assault in their lifetime. People ages 12-34 are at the highest risk of sexual violence: Women ages 16-19 are four times more likely (than the general population) to experience sexual violence. Female college students ages 18-24 are three times more likely to experience sexual violence, while non-student women 18-24 are four times more likely; male college students ages 18-24 are five times more likely to experience sexual violence than male non-students the same age. Fifty-five percent of sexual assaults occur in or near the victim's home; 3 out of 4 perpetrators are known to the victim, most commonly a friend, acquaintance,

person of trust or authority, or intimate partner. Rape and sexual assault have serious impacts on victim's physical health, including the risk of sexually transmitted infections and pregnancy, as well as negative mental health outcomes. Ninety-four percent of victims experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and over one-third experience suicidal thoughts.

Other Violence – Other forms of intimate partner, domestic, and sexual abuse include stalking, elder abuse, and child abuse.

In 1994, the passage of the federal Violence Against Women Act signaled a major shift in governmental awareness and response to domestic and sexual violence. The Violence Against Women Act provides funding to states to support victim services, law enforcement, and other response and prevention efforts. The law also funds the National Domestic Violence Hotline, as well as local domestic and sexual violence coalitions, shelters, legal services, transitional housing, and more.

The Violence Against Women Act has been successfully reauthorized three times since 1994, most recently in 2013. Each reauthorization has come with improvements for reaching underserved populations, refining criminal justice responses, and recognizing the intersectional needs of victims and survivors of violence. Other federal programs, such as the Family Violence Prevention Services Act, have also been instrumental in responding to domestic and sexual violence and providing crucial services to victims and survivors.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:

- The Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to combat domestic and sexual violence in the U.S. and around the world. Our Jewish values of respect for human life, safety, and dignity give us a mandate to work for the protection and advancement of human rights.
- Laws, regulations, and enforcement must be strengthened at all levels of government to deter and combat domestic and sexual violence; prevent future violence; lengthen statutes of limitations for victims; support survivors of violence; and ensure victim-centered, trauma-informed criminal justice responses.
- The Jewish community should work with the courts, law-enforcement agencies, legislatures, and social service agencies to develop strategies to combat domestic violence and sexual assault and support survivors.
- The Jewish community should work with legislatures, law enforcement agencies, and victim service organizations to end the rape kit backlog.
- Education for children, teens, and young adults is an essential component of the effort to prevent domestic and sexual violence, instilling an understanding of healthy dating relationships, sexual consent, and recognizing and responding to abuse.
- The Jewish community should work with Jewish and other faith communities, clergy, ethnic and community-based organizations, health professionals, service providers, educators, and other stakeholders to continue working for the prevention of domestic and sexual violence.

The Jewish community relations field should:

- Advocate for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and the Family Violence Prevention Services Act.
- Work with legislators at the federal, state, and local level, as well as communities at large, to address the dangerous intersection of firearms and domestic violence, through education, new laws, and additional funding necessary to improve the safety of potential victims and survivors.
- Oppose any proposed cuts to U.S. Department of Justice programs that support the safety and civil rights of victims and survivors, particularly the Office on Violence Against Women, and Violence Against Women Act and Family Violence Prevention Services programs.
- Renew its commitment to vigorously defending Violence Against Women Act and Family Violence Prevention Services programs, and be vigilant to threats to this vital funding.
- Work with legislators on policies to end the rape kit backlog, provide funding for testing and maintenance of evidence, and promote justice for survivors and safety for communities.
- Work with legislators on policies that promote the economic security of victims and survivors, including affordable housing, employment and housing nondiscrimination, paid sick and safe days, paid family leave, and public benefits.
- Work with Jewish Family Services and other community organizations to ensure that services are culturally-sensitive and address the holistic needs of victims and survivors.
- Increase education to communal leaders, clergy, emergency responders, and lawmakers on the barriers victims and survivors experience, which prevents many from disclosing their abuse at the time it is occurring.
- Increase communal awareness of the need for sensitivity, support, and validation of victims and survivors.
- Promote age-appropriate abuse prevention education in community schools, camps, and youth groups.
- Raise awareness of the epidemic of sexual assault on college campuses, and the need for strong enforcement of Title IX to ensure equitable access to education for victims and survivors.
- Continue to work with other faith and cultural communities to address domestic violence; and engage with local Jewish domestic and sexual violence prevention coalitions to create and implement effective prevention and intervention strategies; organize and participate in interfaith work; and promote education for clergy and lay leaders in recognizing and responding to domestic and sexual violence in the Jewish community.
- Advocate members of government to develop laws regarding realistic and effective extension of statutes of limitations allowing victims to come forward when they are ready and able.
- Protect victims of sexual trafficking and domestic or sexual violence who come forward to report abuse, without regard to immigration status. (Plenum 2017)

Reproductive Choice and Health

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs: Applauds the implementation of the Affordable Care Act to require health insurance policies to cover, without co-pays or deductibles, all physician-

prescribed FDA-approved contraceptive methods, sterilization procedures and patient education and counseling for women with reproductive capacity, and is concerned that a proper balance be struck between accommodation of religious belief and women's access to insurance for preventive health care services; and is concerned about attempts to redefine certain well-accepted contraceptive medications and devices as abortifacients; Is very concerned about the human impact of continued legal and legislative challenges to women's reproductive health care access and choices in the United States. The Jewish values that undergird these issues, such as privacy, respect, dignity, and women's autonomy and moral agency, are fundamental to our deep interest in matters of reproductive choice; Respects and affirms Jewish teaching and tradition on reproductive matters. We believe that efforts aimed at protecting our vital American experience which is grounded in religious freedom, individual choice, equality, and privacy, are complimentary to maintaining support for core Jewish views on this matter; Endorses the following positions: Human life is to be valued and protected; A woman has a legal right to make her own decisions about accessing the full range of reproductive health care.
We support adequately funded and fully accessible family planning programs that provide comprehensive and medically accurate reproductive and sexual health education and the full range of health care services, including birth control and abortion services.

Courts should recognize that emergency contraceptives and IUD's are not "abortifacients" for purpose of any federal or state law dealing with "abortion; "Acknowledging that the decision to end a pregnancy may be a difficult one, but above all is a personal one, and should only be made by a woman in consultation with her doctor and others whom she chooses to involve, JCPA opposes any executive, administrative, legislative or judicial action, (Federal, State or local) which would: Deny or delay women their right to reproductive choice; or Restrict a woman's ability to access reproductive health services at any age; or
Restrict a woman's religious liberty by imposing restrictions or limitations that make access to reproductive services more difficult or impossible to secure.

Affirming that we trust women to make their own decisions about their reproductive lives, and for women who seek assistance in making difficult reproductive health decisions, JCPA supports the full and unfettered access to confidential and affordable spiritual, religious, mental health, and accurate medical guidance.

We support efforts to strengthen and safeguard the spirit and impact of Roe v. Wade, including private choices by women of all ages, incomes, geographic regions, citizenship or immigration status, and sources of insurance and their equal access to high quality, safe, private, confidential and comprehensive reproductive health services.

Access to comprehensive, unbiased, medically accurate sexuality and reproductive health education, information and services should be expanded so that women and young people know their reproductive health care options and are able to decide the best option for themselves in consultation with their health care provider.

The community relations field should: Enhance deeper understanding through ongoing discussions in the Jewish community about the urgent need to advance equity in access to

reproductive health services for all women and families while encouraging greater support, prayer, ritual and understanding of those who are grappling with moral dilemmas and painful decisions; Encourage increased Jewish community discussion about the harmful impact of difficult life circumstances and inequities in the choices that women (and men) in all walks of life may face as well as disparities across different geographic, socioeconomic and other populations regarding access to quality fertility/infertility, family planning, and abortion services; Oppose any legislative efforts to deny a woman's right to meaningfully access the full range of reproductive health services, and fully exercise her constitutionally protected reproductive rights. For Example: Encourage Jewish communities to oppose any legislative efforts to impede access to reproductive health services, including abortion, by mandating medical care or services or *excessive* regulatory hurdles; Oppose legislation that seeks to practice medicine, such as defining when and what specific medical or surgical procedures are appropriate and lawful when applied to a woman and her ability to access reproductive health services; Oppose any effort that would restrict funding of an institution or program which provides health services including education, birth control, or abortion.
File or join in amicus briefs in litigation involving the Affordable Care Act contraceptive coverage mandate in order to place before courts JCPA positions on the issues involved; Encourage Jewish communities to actively oppose efforts that would deny a woman's right to reproductive freedom on the State level; Support efforts to safeguard Roe v. Wade in the courts; Oppose efforts that would restrict any woman's ability to access or afford the full range of reproductive health services, including birth control and abortion; Support adequately funded and fully accessible programs that provide comprehensive and medically accurate reproductive and sexual health education and the full range of confidential reproductive health care services, including birth control and abortion. (2014 Plenum)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America has long standing policy of not joining in JCPA Resolutions on "Reproductive Rights." While we welcome the Resolution's acknowledgement that "human life is to be valued and protected," we cannot endorse a public policy that does not reflect the complex response of halacha to the abortion issue. In most circumstances, the halacha proscribes abortion, but there are cases in which halacha permits and indeed mandates abortion. The question of abortion is a sensitive one and personal decisions in this area should be made in consultation with recognized halachic authorities. In addition, for reasons of religious liberty (which are entirely unrelated to contraception), the Orthodox Union does not share the Resolution's legal perspective on the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive coverage mandate.*

The JCPA believes that: reproductive health decisions are best made by individuals in consultation with their families and health care professionals based on personal religious beliefs; and, Restrictions on the right to choose and lack of access to services threaten this constitutionally-protected individual right.

The community relations field should: oppose any efforts to deny a woman's right to reproductive choice, including any efforts to deny access to birth control; oppose efforts to restrict a woman's ability to access reproductive health services; and, Support efforts to safeguard Roe v. Wade. (2005 Plenum)

The JCPA supports a woman's legal right to reproductive choice and to adequately funded family planning programs in the U.S. and abroad. We condemn acts of violence directed at those who seek or provide these services (Agenda 2000-2001). The JCPA believes medical education, affected by controversy around this issue, is failing to provide adequate opportunity for doctors to obtain the skills needed to perform this legal medical procedure. Residency curricula in obstetrics/gynecology should make available instruction in all procedures relating to reproductive functions, whether or not the resident-in-training incorporates these procedures into the future practice of medicine (Agenda 1999-2000). We oppose statutes requiring pregnant minors to notify or obtain the consent of their parents or obtain judicial consent or bypasses prior to obtaining an abortion; we support federal and state legislation to provide abortion funding for those unable to pay. (JPP 1992-1993)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America (UOJCA) does not, as a matter of longstanding policy, join the Jewish Council for Public Affairs Agenda discussion of "reproductive choice." We cannot endorse a public policy that does not reflect the complex response of halacha (Jewish law) to the abortion issue. In most circumstances the halacha proscribes abortion, but there are cases in which halacha permits and indeed mandates abortion. The question is a sensitive one and personal decisions in this area should be made in consultation with recognized halachic authorities.*

Breast Cancer Awareness and Treatment

The JCPA believes that; Breast Cancer awareness must begin at an early age, especially for those with a family history, and include education and appropriate screening to ensure that women are knowledgeable of risks. Only then, can they make proactive decisions that may save their lives and maximize their chance for a healthy and productive future.

The community relations field should; support appropriate legislation and public health measures to educate young women and their health care professionals about breast cancer: give them access to the best information to reduce their risks and provide the tools for seeking assistance for their special needs including, fertility preservation counseling, genetic counseling, social and psychological support and recurrence prevention training. Further, the field should support prevention – oriented public health policies and a precautionary approach to chemicals policy that makes protecting human health its top priority; support public education campaigns targeting young women generally at high school and university ages and support similar outreach to young women in specific higher risk populations; support a educational campaign for healthcare professionals to increase awareness of risk factors, safe and effective risk reduction strategies, early diagnosis techniques and treatment practices particularly for women under the age of 45; support the creation of materials to assist health care professionals in helping young women diagnosed with breast cancer address the long-term life-changing effects of the disease, including infertility, short and long term consequences of treatment and risk of subsequent malignancies; support prevention research activities to create standards for the best practices to promote early detection and healthier lifestyles; support increased funding for research into the environmental and other causes of breast cancer; support access to digital mammography; support insurance coverage for second opinions for treatment options and diagnosis; support legislation and programs that promote inclusive screening for all women regardless of socio-economic factors;

urge continued screening be covered by insurance starting at age 40, as per recommendations by American Cancer Society. (2010 Plenum)

Violence Against Women, Sexual Harassment, and Discrimination
The JCPA supports reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and other measures to provide services to individuals and children affected by domestic violence, including passage and implementation of the Family Violence Option by the individual states (Agenda 2000-2001). We support policies to prevent sexual harassment in the workplace and urge the adoption by member agencies and others of sexual harassment policies consistent with the JCPA Model Sexual Harassment Policy, June 1992 (JPP 1992-1993). We support U.S. ratification of the U.N. Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women (JPP 1996-1997).

Advancing Women's Rights
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) urges the United States to ratify the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a landmark Convention that has been ratified by 168 countries, including Israel. (February 2002).

ENVIRONMENTAL CORE PRINCIPLES

The organized Jewish community's agenda for environmental stewardship and justice are derived from both traditional and contemporary principles:

Stewardship
The diversity of life is sacred and should be protected because of its intrinsic value and its contributions to the well-being of humankind. Humankind's unique place in the natural order enables us to transform the natural world to pursue human development and requires us to safeguard ecological systems so that the diversity of life can thrive.

Environmental Justice
All people have the right to live, work, study, and play in environments free of dangerous air, water, or land pollution.

Responsibility to Future Generations
Humankind has a solemn obligation to future generations to live within the ecological limits of the earth.

Prevention of Harm
Regulations should cautiously and prudently err in favor of protecting human life and health.

Public Involvement in Decision-Making
All citizens have a right to be actively involved in decision-making that affects their health or the quality of their environment.

Citizens' Right to Know
Government and industry have an obligation to regularly inform the public of known and suspected dangers to their health from industrial and governmental facilities and from food, water, air, household supplies, and other consumer products.

The Common Good
Government has an obligation both to regulate the use of private property in the interest of the common good and to provide transition assistance to those who lose their livelihood due to changes in environmental policies.

Energy Independence
In order to protect American economic independence, avoid military conflict, and protect the environment and public health, the U.S. should adopt policies which wean the U.S. economy from its reliance on fossil fuels.

Equitable Distribution of Responsibility
Individuals, corporations, governments, and nations that cause pollution or the destruction of ecosystems must bear responsibility for remediation and restoration.

Governmental Compliance
Federal and state governments must be held to the same environmental standards as the private sector, except when national security unambiguously requires a strictly limited exemption.

U.S. Leadership
The United States should take a leadership role in protecting the global environment.

Moral Leadership
As environmental issues are matters of personal and societal morality and ethical responsibility, faith communities have an obligation to provide leadership regarding the necessity of protecting all creation.

Conservation of Natural Resources
The JCPA supports policies—based on pricing, taxation, and other incentives—that lead to the reduction of the level of U.S. per capita consumption of energy, paper, metals, and other resources. The JCPA calls on all households and communal organizations to adopt internal conservation and waste-reduction policies including recycling, the use of recycled and energy-efficient products, and the elimination of hazardous pesticides and cleaning supplies. (Agenda 1999 – 2000)

INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The JCPA supports increased foreign aid for environmental protection, sustainable economic development, and family planning in developing countries. The JCPA urges the Administration to take a leadership role in ensuring that international institutions, including the World Trade Organization and the World Bank, actively work to protect the global environment (Agenda

2000 – 2001). The U.S. should actively address environmental degradation and resource shortages in regions where such developments might lead to either mass migration or armed conflict. The JCPA supports the inclusion of provisions to protect the environment in trade agreements. (Agenda 1999 – 2000)

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND JUSTICE

The JCPA supports a comprehensive and precautionary approach to protecting all members of the public from environmental health threats. (2001 Plenum)

Equal Protection from Pollution and Degradation

The JCPA affirms the right of all people to live and work in environments with clean air, land, water and food and calls on government to protect public health by establishing and ensuring sufficient regulations and facilities to safely minimize, manage, and dispose of toxic, nuclear, and other hazardous wastes. The JCPA calls on government to ensure that all communities have equal access to environmental clean-up programs and equal protection from environmental hazards and the placement of waste disposal facilities, regardless of income, race, or ethnicity. (Statement 1995 Plenum)

Product Testing and the Right to Know

The JCPA supports mandatory pre-market testing of potentially harmful commercial, industrial, and agricultural products and processes that may have the potential to harm the environment or public health before approval for production and use (2001 Plenum). The JCPA supports the mandatory labeling of consumer products regarding their toxicity and the provision of information about the toxicity of the chemicals emitted by industrial and commercial facilities. (Agenda 1998-1999)

Pollution Prevention

The JCPA favors measures that impose the cost of pollution remediation on polluters; provide incentives for pollution prevention; and promote the development of non-toxic alternatives to hazardous materials. (Agenda 2000 – 2001)

Public Health Research

The JCPA supports the establishment of comprehensive registries for both disease and environmental exposure that will provide data for identifying environmental causes of disease. The JCPA supports funding for research into the interactions between the genetic and environmental causes of disease. (2001 Plenum)

The JCPA urges Congress to create a Nationwide Health Tracking Network to be housed at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to give the Centers the authority necessary to establish a comprehensive, national repository of information about the incidence of disease. All feasible actions to ensure that personal health information is kept strictly confidential must be required by law and their implementation carefully monitored. Only aggregate information should be made available to individuals, communities and researchers. The Centers must also be

given the mandate and necessary funds to conduct investigations of possible connections between diseases and environmental factors. (2003 Plenum)

Nuclear Waste
The JCPA supports the isolation of commercial and defense nuclear wastes in a manner that protects public health and the environment. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Regulatory Procedures
As cost-benefit analysis cannot adequately assess the "value" or quality of life, the JCPA does not support its use as the primary tool for evaluating regulations and standards. Rather, the effectiveness of regulations for protecting the vulnerable, preventing harm, and safeguarding creation should serve as the primary evaluation criteria for regulations. (Agenda 1999-2000)

The JCPA opposes routine provision of compensation for loss of profits as a consequence of environmental or other regulation. (1995 Plenum)

Urban and Community Planning
The JCPA supports the provision of incentives for the revitalization of cities through environmentally responsible "Brownfields" programs. The JCPA supports land-use and transportation policies which would contain urban sprawl, promote the redevelopment of cities, and protect open spaces. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Agriculture
The JCPA supports comprehensive testing of all genetically engineered products for their capacity both to disrupt ecosystems and to cause illness. The JCPA supports policies which promote sustainable agricultural practices—including soil conservation, minimized use of pesticides and fertilizers, and maintenance of the genetic diversity of food crops (Agenda 2000 – 2001). In addition, governments should protect agricultural lands and public health through programs to safeguard groundwater, regulate chemical and animal waste runoff from farms and livestock facilities, and promote organic agricultural practices (Agenda 1999 – 2000).

The JCPA calls on the Israeli government to address the rapidly deteriorating environmental conditions in Israel (Agenda 2000 – 2001).

Food Sustainability and Local Food Distribution
The JCPA believes that the ability of local farmers to explore, expand and benefit from local markets and distribution, including urban agriculture projects, is important for community food security; and the full range of Jewish guidelines on ethical food production and consumption deserve our renewed focus

The community relations field should: advocate for fair market access to farmers who engage in organic and sustainable agricultural practices; support Community Supported Agriculture and other local food distribution systems by actively helping to link sources with distribution sites, such as community centers, schools, churches, synagogues, etc; develop a network of community gardens and other innovative gardening programs to increase demand for and sources of local

foods through synagogue social justice projects, community outreach programs and schools; work with or help create local food policy councils; and actively explore and work at putting into practice Jewish ethical ideals and values regarding food production and consumption, and broadly engage with the range of guidelines such as JPEG, *Hechsher Tzedek*, *yoshor*, and eco-kosher. *see also* same title under Equal Opportunity and Social Justice (2010 Plenum)

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY POLICY

Overview

JCPA believes that climate change is an overarching concern at this moment and for the long-term future. It touches on all social justice issues with which we engage. We must bring Dr. Martin Luther King's "fierce urgency of now" to our efforts to adapt, to reduce, and ultimately to reverse climate change and its consequences.

Scientific consensus is clear: climate change poses an existential threat to humanity. JCPA believes that climate change is a global issue that is intertwined with national security, human rights, public health, and racial and socioeconomic justice.

The Jewish community has a legacy of protecting our planet and our natural resources. Sustaining the environment is an important component of the Jewish value *l'ovdah ul'shomrah*, "to till it and tend it" (Gen. 2:15), and *yishuvo shel olam*, that we further God's intention to maintain a habitable world. Responding to this challenge is equally motivated by the principle of *pikuach nefesh*, that one who saves a life, saves the entire world. Environmental policy, established by the Jewish Council for Public Affairs since 1993, reflects our Jewish community's commitment to ensure that our children and our children's children inherit a world that is safe and habitable, just as they inherit their Jewish tradition and Torah from one generation to the next, *l'dor v'dor*.

Combating Climate Change

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs:

- Reaffirms that climate change "is an overarching concern at this moment and for the long-term future. It touches on all social justice issues with which we engage. We must bring Dr. Martin Luther King's 'fierce urgency of now' to our efforts to adapt, to reduce, and ultimately to reverse climate change and its consequences." (JCPA Climate Change Resolution, 2016)

- Believes that climate change poses an existential threat to humanity. The scientific consensus is that we have no more than a decade to reverse climate change before suffering catastrophic consequences.

- Believes that climate change is a: Planetary issue, and international cooperation is integral to halting and adapting to this crisis. It is imperative that the U.S. uphold and strengthen international agreements, not only by rejoining the Paris Accords, but by

modeling bold action and rallying international leaders to cut emissions even more aggressively; National security and human rights issue, as floods and droughts disrupt food production and destabilize governments, contributing to conflict and resulting in a growing tide of climate refugees throughout the world; Public health issue that directly impacts quality of life. It disproportionately affects underserved and minority communities, widening the equity gap in our society and harming societal health; Racial justice and socioeconomic issue felt disproportionately by people of color and low-income communities around the globe. We must ensure that these vulnerable populations, both in the U.S. and internationally, do not suffer an undue burden of climate change, environmental destruction, and impacts of pollution.

- Acknowledges that our long-term economic health is intertwined with environmental sustainability; it is not one or the other.

- Believes it is critical that the U.S., as a disproportionate contributor to climate change, take a leadership role in the promotion of greater global collaboration to combat this crisis. (2021 Delegates Assembly)

The Jewish community relations field should:

- Educate ourselves and our communities and demand that our leaders be guided by the best available science, listening to climate scientists as they advance understanding of the threats and challenges, as well as work together towards achieving climate justice.

- Collaborate with environmental leaders, advocacy groups and concerned citizens to publicize the importance of this issue and take action locally in response to climate change.

- Support and advocate for programs, policies, and regulations at all levels of government, including, but not limited to: Reducing carbon dioxide and other environmentally harmful emissions, including through efforts to keep fossil fuels in the ground, e.g., moratoriums and/or tax disincentives on new coal leases on public land and prohibitions on drilling for oil in the Arctic and off our coastlines; Encouraging development of carbon sequestration technologies; Supporting public and private investment in carbon-free, clean energy, mass transit, high-density housing and other initiatives that mitigate climate change, which can also benefit the labor force and economy overall. As an example, economic recovery programs should invest in job placement and training for workers in transition from other energy industries and should benefit communities of color that disproportionately bear the burdens of climate change; Providing communities with the resources and tools they need to adapt to the impacts of climate change; Eliminating tax subsidies for oil and gas and supporting effective economic incentives and disincentives that accelerate the replacement of dirty sources of energy with clean, carbon-free-options such as solar and wind; Improving standards for utilities and transportation that continually reduce pollution; Enabling states to implement energy standards that set more efficient energy use and lower levels of pollution beyond those required by federal regulations; Reducing the carbon footprint and water consumption of food production

and promoting sustainable, locally sourced agriculture, including an end to federal subsidies to Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).[7]

- Additionally, encourage Jewish institutions to: Include a specific focus on the climate crisis through a lens of Jewish ideals and *tikkun olam* within the curricula of their education programs; Encourage their clergy at all levels to elevate the importance of the climate crisis to the highest levels of Jewish concern for congregants; Include a focus on the climate crisis within programming and outreach to both affiliated and non-affiliated Jews; Include climate change impacts on their current building operations and within the plans for remodeling or new construction projects; Appoint someone to hold a designated sustainability portfolio. (2021 Delegates Assembly)

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: Climate change is an overarching concern of today and tomorrow, which touches on all that we do – poverty, Israel, civil rights, and more. We must bring Dr. King's "fierce urgency of now" to our efforts to reduce and ultimately reverse climate change; The Paris Agreement is a critical component of international cooperation on the global issue of climate change, and must be upheld to the utmost; States and localities should continue to plan and implement clean energy initiatives, even as ever-stronger federal efforts should advance; As the science becomes ever clearer, we must go beyond reaffirming our many previous statements about climate and environment, and intensify our collective efforts toward climate justice. (2016 Plenum)

The community relations field should: Measure, reduce, and ultimately eliminate the emissions footprint of its own activities, infrastructure, and community events; Engage both within the Jewish community and across lines of faith, denomination, generation, race, and ethnic group to create broad coalitions on environmental issues, specifically around clean energy solutions; pursue these efforts at the local level, working with historic trusted partners like Interfaith Power and Light. (2016 Plenum)

Climate Change and Energy Independence

The community relations field should educate and advocate on the importance of climate change as an issue in environmental, religious, ethical and moral terms and lobby for the reversal by the US Government on the Kyoto Accord; Urge the Jewish community to work with those in leadership positions within their communities and in businesses to demonstrate what can be done to tackle climate change — independent of government regulation. Among the meaningful responses to this most urgent environmental challenge are: 'Greening' Jewish institutions in building design and operations; encouraging members of the Jewish community to make sustainable choices, such as conserve energy at home and on the road; and committing individual companies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; Participate in interfaith efforts to engage other groups outside the Jewish community to take action on climate change; and, support legislation materially similar to S2025/HR 4409, the bipartisan "Fuel Choices for American Security Act," currently pending in Congress. (2006 Plenum)

[7] A CAFO, or Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation, is an industrial-sized livestock operation, which produces significant amounts of animal sewage and other pollutants.

Climate Change and Poverty
The JCPA believes the community relations field should, at both the state and federal level, support measures to protect vulnerable populations (at home and abroad) from environmental damage related to climate change and that limit the economic burdens of new policies on those populations (including efforts to direct revenue generated by climate change legislation toward such programs); support increased funding for programs that help vulnerable populations pay for their immediate home energy needs and reduce their energy demands; support efforts to create new jobs and job-training programs to help those who lose their jobs as a result of new environmental regulations and policies; support studies that examine the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations and facilitate implementation of emergency plans to respond to these effects; promote multilateral international cooperation to deal with this issue. (2008 Plenum)

Comprehensive Energy Policy
The JCPA believes that: The United States should develop a comprehensive energy plan aimed both at mitigating the effects of climate change and at enhancing national security; cap and trade programs or carbon taxes should be supported, since they would result in more appropriate pricing of fossil fuels by taking account of externalities, such as environmental effects, that purely market-based prices ignore; more investment in the public transportation sector should be supported.

The development and production of a broad range of alternative energy sources, especially those that do not compete for the word's food supply such as cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel from algae, should be supported. We also support governmental incentives designed to spur scientific and technological advances aimed at reducing the generation of greenhouse gases and the consumption of non-renewable fuels. Measures to increase the importation of ethanol derived from sugar cane from countries such as Brazil should be considered. The manufacture of flex fuel vehicles should also be encouraged.

A renewable electricity standard should be enacted to require energy companies to produce a significant percentage of their electricity from clean, renewable energy sources."

The JCPA and its member agencies should: Advocate for the positions stated above to opinion leaders both locally and nationally and to the Obama Administration and the new Congress. Advocate for the development of environmentally friendly mass transit systems using green technology and cluster housing communities that can use mass transit systems; Advocate for support for research and development of a broad range of bio-fuels and alternative energy sources. (2009 Plenum)

Dependence on Foreign Energy Sources
The JCPA calls on Congress and the Administration to expeditiously address the urgent need to reduce the United States' dependence on foreign oil by developing and implementing a comprehensive, environmentally sound energy plan. The JCPA believes such a multifaceted approach should include: Supporting the modernization and expansion of America's energy infrastructure with sensitivity to our natural environment; Dramatically increasing energy efficiency and conservation; Rapidly developing, producing, and marketing renewable and

alternative energy technologies; Developing and implementing environmentally responsible options to increase overall domestic energy production; Collaborate with international partners to develop global solutions; Diversifying foreign energy sources to reduce our reliance on hostile regimes; Expanding cost-efficient, energy-efficient alternatives to ensure that conservation is a viable option for all Americans; Improving mass transit options to reduce the consumption of oil by American vehicles; Supporting changes in urban and suburban communities that facilitate effective use of modes of transportation that do not consume external energy, such as cycling and walking; Offering economic and other incentives to purchase more fuel-efficient or alternatively-fueled vehicles and to rely upon public transportation; Mandating significant enhancements in fuel economy standards for all modes of transportation and improving mass transit options; Increasing public awareness through broad education campaigns; Exploring the use of nuclear energy with appropriate safeguards. (2007 Plenum)

Domestic Energy Production
The U.S. should not seek to increase energy independence by drilling for oil or gas in environmentally sensitive areas, particularly those that are unique natural areas or critical habitats for threatened species. (2001 Plenum)

Energy Conservation and Clean Energy Technologies
The JCPA supports policies to effect the rapid adoption of clean and renewable energy sources and technologies, including solar, wind, fuel cell, and natural gas, and the phasing out of reliance on fossil fuel technologies which contribute to air pollution, respiratory illness, global warming, and the degradation of ecosystems (Agenda 2000 – 2001). The JCPA supports significant increases in vehicle fuel economy standards. The JCPA supports increased development and use of mass transit (2001 Plenum). The JCPA supports keeping the Strategic Petroleum Reserve filled to capacity. (JPP 1993-1994)

International Agreements on Global Climate Change
The JCPA supports U.S. leadership in global efforts to address climate change. The JCPA supports the goals of the Kyoto Protocol and urges that the U.S. and other developed nations should achieve a majority of greenhouse gas emission reductions required under international agreements through direct domestic action. International agreements addressing climate change must protect those most vulnerable: poor people, those living in coastal areas, and those relying on subsistence agriculture. (Agenda 1999- 2000)

Domestic Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions
The JCPA supports the creation of mandatory domestic emissions reductions programs under the legislative authority provided by the already ratified Rio Treaty. (Agenda 1999 – 2000)

Economic Displacement
The JCPA supports federal programs to provide retraining and economic transition assistance to the workers and industries most negatively affected by changes in energy policies. (Agenda 1999 – 2000) Congress should generously fund the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program and other programs to reduce the negative impact on poor people of energy policies that increase the cost of energy. (2001 Plenum)

Market Incentives
The JCPA favors policies which provide market-based incentives to adopt clean energy technologies, including taxation of pollution. (Agenda 2000 – 2001)

Utility Regulation
Changes in the regulation of utilities should be done in a manner that promotes significant greenhouse gas emissions reductions, including the elimination of subsidies to fossil fuel industries so that environmentally friendly energy production will become increasingly competitive. (2001 Plenum)

Biological Diversity
The JCPA supports a comprehensive approach to preserving and restoring biological diversity at home and abroad. (2001 Plenum)

Public Lands
The JCPA supports management of both public and private lands to preserve and restore biological diversity. The JCPA supports the establishment of a system of interconnected, strictly protected biological preserves on land, in fresh water, and in the sea (Agenda 2000 – 2001). Government should remove subsidies for logging, mining, or grazing on public lands, especially in old growth forests (Agenda 1999-2000). The JCPA supports generous and permanent funding for the acquisition and protection of sensitive land and water habitat. (2001 Plenum)

Endangered Species
The JCPA supports reauthorization of a strengthened Endangered Species Act — overdue for reauthorization since 1993. (2001 Plenum)

The JCPA supports protection of species on public and private lands based on current science, erring on the side of protecting species when scientific authorities differ. The federal government should conduct sufficient biological research to make timely decisions regarding species protection. Governments should work proactively to prevent dangerous declines in species populations and create recovery plans for all endangered and threatened species (Agenda 1999 – 2000). Government should protect and restore sufficient habitat to secure viable populations of declining species throughout their present ranges. Congress should amend the Endangered Species Act to prohibit the federal government from granting permits ("incidental take permits") to destroy habitat that is scientifically demonstrated by peer review to be essential to the recovery of endangered species. The Administration and Congress should devise, fully fund and aggressively publicize positive incentives to encourage private property owners to protect and recover endangered and threatened species and the habitat upon which they depend. (Resolution1997 Plenum)

Hydrofracking
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that studies into hydrofracking impacts, including impacts on groundwater sources, surface water sources, air quality, human and animal health, infrastructure and ecosystems, should be continued and conducted with urgency by federal and state regulatory agencies. Appropriate safeguards to protect public health and the environment should be adopted and enforced based on the identification of impacts. Impact fees and/or severance taxes should be sufficiently high to not only cover all of the costs governments incur in regulating and

accommodating extraction, but also to fund environmental conservation and restoration programs and to fund research into the impacts of large-scale natural-gas extraction. Federal, state and local governments should seek an appropriate and coordinated distribution of authority given their respective areas of responsibility, in a fashion that is focused on both the benefits of development of these natural resources as in the national interest and on the need to minimize negative environmental impact. States should ensure that permitting processes require the collection and analysis of all appropriate site data, including both baseline data on environmental conditions and ongoing monitoring. States should require safeguards for protecting underground water sources and adequate setbacks to keep drilling sites a safe distance away from residences, schools, healthcare facilities, creeks, lakes, rivers, and sources of public-drinking-water supplies, as well from other areas of high ecological value. Bonding requirements should be sufficiently high to cover future costs of well plugging, abandonment, and site restoration. State and federal regulatory authorities need an adequate legal framework, sufficient numbers of adequately trained personnel and adequate funding to ensure appropriate regulatory oversight. The adverse environmental and health impacts of hydrofracking should be evaluated in the context of similar impacts associated with other sources of energy. The drilling industry must identify all chemicals used in the fracking process, stop using any that are banned by appropriate regulation, and should be strongly urged to find and use non-hazardous substitutes for hazardous chemicals used in the fracking process. Drillers should be encouraged to recycle and/or ensure proper disposal of all wastewater. An increase in the natural-gas supply should not result in reduced investment in research and development of alternative and renewable energy sources.

The community relations field should support adequate federal and state regulation to protect groundwater sources, surface water sources, air quality, human and animal health, infrastructure and ecosystems; support federal legislation to eliminate the natural-gas industry's exemption from the Safe Drinking Water Act; support legislation and regulation enabling the EPA to require full disclosure of the type and amount of hydrofracking chemicals used at each well site; educate their communities about the extraction of natural gas and oil by hydrofracking and about relevant Jewish perspectives on the issue; support preservation of unique and/or sensitive areas by putting them off limits to gas drilling to be determined by an appropriate science-based process. (2012 Plenum)

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

ISRAELI-ARAB-PALESTINIAN PEACE

Peace Process

The JCPA believes that as the Israeli government negotiates permanent status issues (including borders, security, Jerusalem, settlements and refugees) to reach a comprehensive and just peace agreement with the Palestinians, the organized Jewish community should support those efforts, consistent with our longstanding tradition of supporting the efforts of Israel's democratically elected government to achieve peace and security. The United States government should oppose Palestinian Authority Efforts to declare a state unilaterally and to seek recognition by the United Nations and other governments.

The Administration should be commended for its active and sustained diplomacy in trying to facilitate direct, face-to-face, bilateral and uninterrupted negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians that can lead to two states for two peoples living side by side in peace and security. Lasting peace depends on both parties recognizing each other's right of national self-determination. Just as Israel has recognized this right for the Palestinian people, the American Jewish community should continue to support Israel's insistence that the Palestinian Authority recognize Israel as the Jewish state, the nation state of the Jewish people. It is crucial that the United States and the international community support courageous peace efforts made by Israeli and Palestinian leaders, specifically Palestinians should continue to receive closely monitored assistance in building the political, economic, and security institutions necessary to lay the foundation for statehood. Arab states should be urged to normalize relations with Israel.

As long as Hamas continues to maintain effective control over the Gaza Strip and shows no movement toward fundamental change, the international community should continue its policy of isolating Hamas, while ensuring that this policy causes a minimum of suffering to the people of Gaza. The right of Israel to defend itself against missiles and other security threats while continuing to make every effort to avoid civilian casualties should be fully respected.

As an important contribution to an environment that promotes peace, the Jewish community should encourage a broad spectrum of religious and civic leadership, particularly from among Jewish and Arab Americans, to support those Israelis and Palestinians who seek a peaceful two state solution, and oppose all elements which use terror, violence or rejectionism to thwart that goal. The U.S. government should clearly and publicly discourage the Palestinians or any party from directly or indirectly engaging in or supporting efforts aimed at delegitimizing Israel, including through international multi-lateral bodies such as the UN Human Rights Council, UNESCO and international legal forums such as the International Court of Justice, the International Criminal Court and the judiciary of countries that claim universal jurisdiction to prosecute Israelis. The U. S. government should vigorously encourage the Palestinians to return to direct negotiations promptly and without preconditions. The United States and the international community should stress that for there to be lasting peace in the Middle East, peace, not hate, must be taught. Therefore, the Palestinian people should be urged to prepare their young people to accept the concept of Palestinians living in peace with Israel in schools and through television, internet and other mass-media programming. The United States should continue to insist on full implementation of the Israeli-Egyptian treaty, which serves as the foundation for pursuing an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians and for expanding peace throughout the region.

The community relations field should advocate for the aforementioned positions and messages to decision-makers and opinion-molders in the general community, to the Administration and Congress, to the international community; and convey its own commitment to these principles to the Jewish community and to Israeli leaders. (2011 Plenum)

The JCPA believes that direct bilateral negotiations between the two parties — free of external pressures and deadlines, and conducted in the spirit of reconciliation and compromise — is the surest path to peace; for its efforts to expand support for peace and security throughout the

region; and for its steadfast commitment to Israel's security. Ongoing attacks against Israeli civilians, whether suicide bombings or the firing of missiles into Israeli communities, must not be tolerated. While peace negotiations proceed, Israel continues to have the fundamental right of self-defense. In fulfillment of its obligations under Phase I of the Roadmap, and to help build Israeli confidence, the Palestinian Authority should immediately end all its official media messages denying Israel's right to exist and should instead begin preparing its people for peaceful coexistence with its neighbor Israel as the Homeland of the Jewish people. Israel should continue making progress on implementation of its obligations under the Roadmap. In keeping with these obligations, the government of Israel has committed that it will not allow any new settlements or land acquisitions that are not in accord with the provisions of the Roadmap.

The organized American Jewish community should support the Government of Israel's insistence that the Palestinian Authority recognize Israel as a Jewish State and affirm its support for two independent, democratic and economically viable states — the Jewish State of Israel and a State of Palestine — living side-by-side in peace and security. We note, with sorrow, that Israel's repeated offers to establish "two democratic states living side by side in peace and security," have been met, time after time, by violence, incitement, and terror.

It is crucial that the United States and the entire international community support the courageous peace efforts made by Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Palestinians should receive closely monitored assistance in building the political, economic, and security institutions necessary to lay the foundation for statehood. Arab states should move at an accelerated pace toward normalizing relations with Israel.

Active support of religious leadership can play an important role in improving the peacemaking environment. We encourage implementation of the promising commitments in the recent Communiqué of the Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land.

The international community should continue its policy of isolating Hamas unless it fundamentally transforms itself and meets the international community's three demands.

The organized American Jewish community should express its support for the Israeli Government's efforts to achieve peace and security for the people of Israel.

As the Israeli government enters negotiations on permanent status issues (including settlements, borders, Jerusalem, and refugees) to reach a comprehensive and just peace agreement with the Palestinians, the organized Jewish community should support those efforts, consistent with our longstanding tradition of supporting the efforts of Israel’s government to achieve peace and security.

The community relations field is encouraged to advocate for the aforementioned positions and messages to decision-makers and opinion-molders in the general community, to the Administration and Congress, to the international community; and convey its own commitment to these principles to the Jewish community and to Israeli leaders. (2008 Plenum)

Dissent: *The Orthodox Union does not agree with and dissents from the statement that "The organized American Jewish community should affirm its support for two independent, democratic and economically viable states — the Jewish State of Israel and a State of Palestine — living side-by-side in peace and security." We note, with sorrow, that Israel's repeated offers to establish 'two democratic states living side by side in peace and security, 'have been met, time after time, by violence, incitement, and terror."*
Hamas controls the Gaza strip and continues to wage open warfare and terrorism against Israel. The Palestinian Authority, which controls the Palestinian areas in the West Bank, has not demonstrated sufficient capacity or willingness, as noted by the resolution, to prepare its people for recognizing Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and the homeland of the Jewish people. If anything, such a statement appears to reward the very acts of terrorism and anti-Israel behavior that other provisions of the resolution criticize. The Orthodox Union further disagrees with and dissents from the resolution's statement that the American Jewish community should support an Israeli government's negotiation efforts with regard to the status of Jerusalem – should that include the Government of Israel's possible assent to the re-division of the Holy City which the global Jewish community continues to view as the "eternal and indivisible capital of Israel and the Jewish people."

The JCPA mourns the loss of innocent Israeli and Palestinian lives, the enormous suffering and the human toll the conflict has had on both societies. At the same time, we condemn the decision of the Palestinian leadership to use deadly terrorist acts as a tool to achieve political goals. The continued failure of that leadership to prepare its people for peace, to stop the teaching of hate and to abandon, finally, its goal of destroying the state of Israel, has contributed enormously to the deteriorating conditions in the area. We support Israel's efforts to suppress terrorism by any reasonable means. We further support Israeli government efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the non-combatant population. We support Israeli efforts to exercise great caution to minimize the deaths of innocent Palestinians, including those who are caught in the cross-fire when Palestinian forces intentionally position themselves among civilian populations. We support the Israeli government's continued efforts to prevent any vigilante actions by individuals directed against Palestinians and/or Israelis in the West Bank, Gaza, or in Israel proper. We support the special relationship between the United States and Israel as two allied democracies in an international campaign against terrorism. As both countries confront an extensive network of Islamic extremist groups, including Al Qaeda, that vow destruction here and abroad, we express our gratitude to the United States for its strong support of Israel, including its growing recognition of the common threat faced by both nations. We call on the United States and the international community to intensify their efforts to pressure those specific governments that finance and glorify terrorism to cease all support of terrorism. We also urge sustained efforts to encourage political, educational and economic reform in Arab and Muslim states as well as Palestinian society, to develop democratic, pluralistic, free and open societies with a commitment to the rule of law and human rights. We express our outrage about the continuous hateful anti-Semitism conveyed through government-controlled media, religious institutions, and schools in much of the Arab and Islamic world, including the Palestinian Authority. We call upon the Administration to pay close attention to incitement in the Arab media. We urge American Jews to maintain a strong sense of unity and solidarity with the people of Israel, while recognizing that within this solidarity there is a diversity of views on some matters of Israeli government policy. We welcome that diversity as healthy debate provided that it is not aimed at

weakening American support so critical for Israel's security. The JCPA encourages its member agencies to share these positions and views with members of the Jewish community, U.S. and Israeli officials, and opinion-molders in the general community. (2004 Plenum)

The JCPA calls on the Palestinian Authority to stop the Palestinian-initiated violence, cease anti-Israel incitement, eliminate hatred toward Israel and Jews being taught in Palestinian schools and fulfill all of their obligations under the Oslo Accords (February 2000; February 2001).

The JCPA pledges to reinvigorate its solidarity with and action on behalf of Israel; expresses support for a secure and lasting peace in the Middle East, (2001 Plenum); expresses its support for the Israeli government and its solidarity with the Israeli people which has seen widespread violence; and sends our condolences to the families who have lost loved ones, whether Arabs or Jews (Statement October 2000).

The JCPA reaffirms its strong support for Israel's pursuit of a secure and lasting peace with her Arab neighbors; and calls for active U.S. facilitation and mediation of the peace process. Differences between the parties must be resolved through direct, bilateral negotiations based on the Oslo Accords and UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 (June 1999; February 2000; Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001), and unilateral actions that contradict them should be avoided (Agenda 1999-2000).

The JCPA urges Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and other moderate states in the Middle East to encourage the Palestinians to move in this direction; to realize Arab summit statements critical of Israel and the severing of relations with Israel by Morocco, Tunisia, and Oman only undermine chances for returning to a constructive political process (Statement October 2000); to live up to their commitments to eradicate anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement and to begin to seriously educate their populations – children and adults – on the peace process, tolerance and non-violence; and to promote normal relations with the people of Israel. (Statement October 2000; February 2000; February 2001).

The JCPA calls on Syria, in demonstration of good faith to Israel, to cease to publish incendiary anti-Semitic articles in its press; and encourages the Syrian leadership to issue public statements favorable to reconciliation with Israel and begin preparing its citizenry for peace (February 2000).

The JCPA welcomes efforts to focus sustained attention on threats to regional stability emanating from Iran; calls upon the U.S. to press Syria to rein in Hezbollah terrorists who continue to attack Israeli targets from southern Lebanon (2001 Plenum); and welcomes statements by senior U.S. government officials and members of Congress opposing the Arab states initiatives to revive UN General Assembly Resolution 181 and to convene a conference of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention, actions, which can only serve to undermine the peacemaking environment. (June 1999)

Delegitimizing Israel through Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions Movement (BDS)

The JCPA believes that: The campaign to delegitimize Israel and the BDS movement, serves as a distraction from the critical task of trying to bring peace to the Middle East. It should, nevertheless, be regarded with the utmost seriousness and urgency; The promotion of boycotts,

divestment, and sanctions against Israel evidences a troubling double standard – singling out Israel for blame. It polarizes individuals, Israel, and communities in such a way that the proposed actions themselves, and not peace, become the central issue, thus making real contributions to peace more difficult to achieve; The use of boycotts, divestment, and sanctions in the context of the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict is an effort to reward intransigence by suggesting that international pressure can replace efforts to negotiate in good faith. These activities detract from the goal of a lasting and solid peace based on co-existence and productive economic relations; Those opposed to the existence of the State of Israel are tenacious and will continue to intensify their campaign globally, within local communities and on the campuses. It is imperative that the field remain vigilant to the BDS campaign and respond to it with vigor; Those seeking to hasten peace should focus on efforts of reconciliation, including investment in the many meaningful coexistence programs that are necessary to foster a generation of Israelis and Palestinians, which will work and live side-by-side and move past the teaching of hate and violence.

With the assistance of the Jewish Federations/JCPA Israel Advocacy Initiative (IAI), the community relations field is encouraged to: develop a comprehensive, continental, and community-based strategy to counter the campaign to delegitimize Israel, which includes effective responses to the BDS movement and to legal dimensions of this issue, utilizing resources within the field, as well as other Jewish and non-Jewish organizations committed to this cause. Components of this strategy include: Confront boycott campaigns with campaigns to purchase Israeli goods or partner with Israeli organizations, with the aim of ensuring that every boycott campaign is a net failure, in so far as it results in enhanced cooperation with Israelis; Respond swiftly to false or distorted media statements about Israel; Educate professional and lay leadership as well as high schools and college students about the nature, tactics and dangers of the BDS movement, and train them to effectively counter BDS initiatives nationally and in local communities; Redirect those in the spheres above who might be vulnerable to BDS activity to invest instead in programs that promote peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians; Vigorously combat slanderous attacks, including the retrograde, anti-Semitic fabrications that have been levied against Israelis that are reminiscent of the ancient blood libel. (2010 Plenum)

Countering Anti-Jewish and Anti-Israel Activity on Campuses

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs reaffirms our bedrock commitment to protecting free speech and academic freedom and to combating anti-Semitism.[8] A climate which values academic freedom can promote critical thinking that is often the best solvent for hatred and discrimination. An environment that gives high value to civility is one in which differing viewpoints can be aired without fear or intimidation. Anti-Semitism is often best countered when the remedies sought are seen as in harmony with, rather than in opposition to notions of free speech. We believe that Title VI provides an important remedy for situations in which (1) objectively offensive and severe or pervasive anti-Semitic or anti-Israel conduct, such as conduct involving intimidation, violence or threats of violence, has risen to a level where it deprives a

[8] One definition of anti-Semitism accepted by many is the European Union Monitoring Center's working definition of anti-Semitism, which has been adopted by the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights (which can be found at http://bit.ly/eudefinition).

student of the benefits or opportunities provided by the school, and (2) the school has accepted, tolerated, or failed to correct the hostile environment of which it had notice. Such toxic environments pose a threat not only to Jewish students but also to academic freedom itself as they cause students to become afraid to be who they are and to say what they think. Lawsuits and threats of legal action may be warranted to redress a systematic climate of fear and intimidation which a university administration has failed to address promptly with reasonable corrective measures. The JCPA recognizes the importance of First Amendment protected speech and believes that it is not in the Jewish community's best interest to invoke Title VI when it could lead to an environment in which legitimate debate about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is squelched and academic freedom is undermined; Calls on campus leaders from all spheres to counter hateful speech on campus, and to foster an atmosphere in which all students, including pro-Israel students and faculty feel safe expressing their opinions and ideas in the classroom and elsewhere on campus without fear of repercussions. They should also use their offices to actively discourage university support, co-sponsorship or endorsement of virulently anti-Israel programs.

The community relations field should provide a vehicle for Jewish and other advocacy organizations to come together with campus groups to develop well-coordinated strategies for protecting Jewish students from hostile campus environments, and to support initiatives that promote Israel and the well-being of Jewish students. Jewish and other advocacy organizations should be a resource and support to students, respecting and advancing their consensus strategies. Outside groups should give high priority to de-escalating conflict while promoting a climate in which Jewish students are physically secure and able to participate fully in campus life; Work with faculty, administrators, students, alumni, and appropriate campus organizations to respond to anti-Jewish bigotry through education, programming, study of campus climate, investigation of complaints, and vigorous application of appropriate campus codes of conduct where necessary; help campus leaders to understand as well as educate others about the distinctions between mere speech, including criticism of Israeli policies, and anti-Israel or anti-Jewish conduct that creates an atmosphere that is so severe, pervasive and objectively offensive that it deprives a student of access to the benefits or opportunities provided by the school. We urge Congress to enact legislation that enshrines in the law that federally funded schools must protect students from religious harassment and intimidation – even as they are already obligated to protect against discrimination based on "race, color, or national origin" under Title VI – so that the legal rights of Jewish students and students of other religions are firmly in place and not subject to agency interpretation; help foster Jewish life on campus that is inclusive and diverse in opinions and activities related to the Jewish community. We encourage understanding of the breadth and limits of the Department of Education's authority to address and remedy harassment and intimidation under Title VI, identify appropriate cases for Title VI intervention, and act accordingly; consult with a broad range of Jewish student community leaders and campus Jewish professionals before publicly threatening a Title VI suit so as to ascertain their views on the impact that such a threat or filing would have on their community, whether the basic claim of the suit is consistent with their experience on campus, and whether there are other potentially effective remedies that could or should be employed prior to bringing legal action; work with faculty, administrators, campus organizations and students to maintain an atmosphere of civility and develop an appropriate forum for presentation and discussion of opposing views that does not infringe on student and faculty rights, including those eligible for Title VI protection. (2012 Plenum)

Economic Sanctions Including Divestment

The JCPA believes that Economic sanctions against companies doing business with Israel evince a misunderstanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and are a cause for great concern. They polarize people and communities in such a way that the actions themselves, and not peace, become the central issue, making constructive actions for peace less possible; Efforts to single Israel out for economic sanctions, to the exclusion of other regions and nations around the world, evidence a troubling double standard that poses a serious challenge to intergroup relations; Support of economic sanctions against companies doing business with Israel reward intransigence by suggesting that international pressure can replace efforts to negotiate in good faith; Economic sanctions targeting Israel would also adversely affect the Palestinian people, as the Israeli and Palestinian economies are intertwined, and thousands of Palestinians work in Israel. Attacks on the economic life of the Israeli people not only undermine Israel's survival but also the economic viability of Israeli Arabs and Palestinians and contribute to instability in the region. They detract from the goal of a formation of a lasting and solid peace based on co-existence, economic relations and trade as well as other needed aspects of normalization that are crucial to the building of that long dreamed-of peace; and, Those seeking to hasten peace should focus on efforts of reconciliation, including investment in the many meaningful coexistence programs, that are necessary to foster a generation of Israelis and Palestinians which will work and live side-by-side and move past the teaching of hate and the resort to violence.

The community relations field should educate and encourage the Jewish community, including the campus community, to engage in dialogue within local communities with other faith and community groups to build understanding and develop bridges of communication; and, Actively engage religious, civic, political, labor, academic and other institutions to inform the community at large about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, to oppose the use of economic sanctions, including shareholder actions and divestment, as tools to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and support efforts to change such policies where they have been. Joint travel opportunities can be an important part of this effort. (2005 Plenum)

Israeli MIAs

The JCPA urges the American and Israeli governments to keep the issue of Israeli MIAs on their diplomatic agendas and pledges to support efforts to increase public awareness of the MIAs (1996; 1997).

Jerusalem

The JCPA supports the preservation of an undivided Jerusalem as Israel's capital under Israeli sovereignty (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001; February 2001); continues to call for the swift implementation of the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act of 1995, acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and calling for the immediate transfer of the United States Embassy to that city (February 2001); deplores attempts by Palestinian and Arab leaders to deny Jerusalem's unique place within Jewish religion and history; and reaffirms our support for Jerusalem as the eternal, undivided, Capital of Israel. (Agenda 1999-2000; February 2001)

Palestinian "Right of Return"
The JCPA rejects any effort, under the banner of the "right of return," to force Israel to accept hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees, a claim which has no legitimacy and is nothing more than a formula for Israel's destruction (Agenda 1999-2000; February 2001)

Security Fence
The JCPA believes that consistent with the framework of Arab-Israel peace agreements, issues relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be settled through bilateral negotiations. Solutions should not be predetermined or imposed by the International Court of Justice or other international bodies; that the United Nations General Assembly resolution requesting an advisory opinion from the ICJ on Israel's security fence reflects a long campaign by Israel's detractors to manipulate and abuse the U.N. system to isolate and demonize the Jewish State. This anti-Israel environment in the U.N. serves to undermine constructive efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian negotiations; that the ICJ involvement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has potentially dangerous repercussions for the integrity of the Court and international law. The community relations field should monitor the proceedings, educate the community, media and local officials about the anti-Israel bias implicit in the process, and make the case for Israel's security needs in the face of Palestinian unceasing terrorism; reach out to U.S. officials and to the legal community, urging them to speak out publicly with concerns about the politicization and misuse of the International Court of Justice and its repercussions for the integrity of international law; educate the community, local media and opinion molders on the misuse of international bodies such as the U.N. and the ICJ to single out and isolate Israel. (2004 Plenum)

Settlements
Israel, in accord with the Roadmap, has undertaken responsibilities with respect to settlement activity including the dismantling of unauthorized outposts. With regard to the issue of settlements generally, we recognize that within our own community there are divergent views about current and future policies of the Israeli government toward settlements. At the same time, we are united in the belief that the root cause of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not Israeli settlements but the continued unwillingness of the Palestinian national leadership and most Arab states to accept the state of Israel as a permanent sovereign Jewish state in the Middle East within secure borders. (2008 Plenum)

Teaching about the Middle East
The JCPA encourages the field to identify problems with respect to anti-Israel bias in curriculum materials for primary and secondary schools and teacher training programs on the Middle East; work with local school officials to promote programs and materials that create a better understanding of Israel and the challenges it faces (JPP 1994-1995); the approach to this issue should not be exclusively reactive…Academic and "think tank" institutions should be encouraged to publish and disseminate curricular materials and to sponsor teacher-training programs that portray Middle East issues fairly and accurately (JPP 1992-1993).

Two States
The organized American Jewish community should affirm its support for two independent, democratic and economically viable states — the Jewish State of Israel and a State of Palestine

— living side-by-side in peace and security. We note, with sorrow, that Israel's repeated offers to establish "two democratic states living side by side in peace and security," have been met, time after time, by violence, incitement and terror. (2008 Plenum)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Congregations of America does not agree with and dissents from the statement that "The organized American Jewish community should affirm its support for two independent, democratic and economically viable states — the Jewish State of Israel and a State of Palestine — living side-by-side in peace and security." As stated in our amendment to the resolution's text, "[w]e note, with sorrow, that Israel's repeated offers to establish 'two democratic states living side by side in peace and security, 'have been met, time after time, by violence, incitement, and terror." Hamas controls the Gaza strip and continues to wage open warfare and terrorism against Israel. The Palestinian Authority, which controls the Palestinian areas in the West Bank, has not demonstrated sufficient capacity or willingness, as noted by the resolution, to prepare its people for recognizing Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and the homeland of the Jewish people. If anything, such a statement appears to reward the very acts of terrorism and anti-Israel behavior that other provisions of the resolution criticize. The Orthodox Union further disagrees with and dissents from the resolution's statement that the American Jewish community should support an Israeli government's negotiation efforts with regard to the status of Jerusalem — should that include the Government of Israel's possible assent to the re-division of the Holy City which the global Jewish community continues to view as the "eternal and indivisible capital of Israel and the Jewish people."*

ISRAEL-U.S. RELATIONS / ISRAEL AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

Foreign Aid

The JCPA supports generous U.S. foreign assistance to Israel and its peace partners (Agenda 1999-2000).

Israel-International Relations

The JCPA supports enhanced relations between Israel and the international community; initiatives by the UN and other international bodies that reinforce the peace process; expanded diplomatic and economic relations between Israel and the Arab world; Israel's admission as a full-fledged member of the UN's Western European and Others Group (WEOG); rejects one-sided United Nations resolutions that condemn Israel for employing "excessive force" (Statement October 2000); urges the U.S. to support greater political and economic cooperation between the international community and Israel; encourage other countries to sharply reassess their posture toward Israel in the UN, in particular the votes of most member countries on anti-Israel resolutions in the General Assembly (JPP 1993-1994)

The JCPA urges Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and other moderate states in the Middle East to encourage the Palestinians to move in this direction; to realize Arab summit statements critical of Israel and the severing of relations with Israel by Morocco, Tunisia, and Oman only undermine chances for returning to a constructive political process (Statement October 2000); to live up to their commitments to eradicate anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement and to begin to seriously educate their populations — children and adults — on the peace process, tolerance and non-

violence; and to promote normal relations with the people of Israel. (Statement October 2000; February 2000; February 2001).

The JCPA calls on Syria, in demonstration of good faith to Israel, to cease to publish incendiary anti-Semitic articles in its press; and encourages the Syrian leadership to issue public statements favorable to reconciliation with Israel and begin preparing its citizenry for peace (February 2000).

The JCPA welcomes efforts to focus sustained attention on threats to regional stability emanating from Iran; calls upon the U.S. to press Syria to rein in Hezbollah terrorists who continue to attack Israeli targets from southern Lebanon (February 2001); and welcomes statements by senior U.S. government officials and members of Congress opposing the Arab states initiatives to revive UN General Assembly Resolution 181 and to convene a conference of the signatories to the Fourth Geneva Convention, actions, which can only serve to undermine the peacemaking environment. (June 1999)

Supporting the Abraham Accords

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: All of the individuals and governments whose work resulted in the signing of the Abraham Accords, including the United States, Israel, and Arab nations, are to be commended; Peace between Israel and its neighbors is an American interest that the U.S. Government should continue to encourage; The Biden Administration should seize upon the progress made in the Middle East, as evidenced by the Abraham Accords, and use its voice and leverage to expand normalization to include other Arab countries and as another means for encouraging Israelis and Palestinians to forge a lasting peace; The "outside-in" approach should be pursued in tandem with any efforts to encourage bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Neither approach should be held back because of progress or lack thereof in the other, and the United States should approach each with the assumption that success in either is good for the region and can be a precursor to the other; We urge all parties to continue to explore possible steps to improving ties and to avoid taking any inflammatory action that could set back peace-making, not just between Israel and Palestinians, but between Israel and the larger Arab world; Expanded people-to-people programs and commercial relationships between Israel and Arab countries are crucial to long-term peace and stability, as a means for building greater knowledge, understanding, and tolerance among people of all faiths, ethnicities, and nationalities in the region.

The Jewish community relations field should: At a time of an increasingly polarized partisan differences in Washington, DC, it is significant that the Abraham Accords enjoys wide support across the American political spectrum. The Biden Administration should seize upon the progress made in the Middle East, as evidenced by the Abraham Accords which the Trump Administration helped to bring about and use its voice and leverage to expand the relationships between Israel and Muslim countries, and as another means for encouraging the Palestinians to forge a lasting peace with Israel; Urge the Biden Administration to encourage efforts at deepening cooperation and trustbuilding between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, including encouraging Arab signatories to the Abraham Accords to assist in these efforts; Work within our community, and with partner organizations in the general community, to create an environment

that is conducive to peace-making and ensures that the US continues its historic and indispensable role as a broker of peace in the region; Encourage the Biden Administration as well as governments in the region to take steps in the wake of these historic accords to promote tolerance, support human rights, and combat antisemitism; Express our full support for people-to-people initiatives and commercial relationships between Israel and Arab countries and participate in such initiatives when appropriate, as well as other efforts to appropriately show the benefits of peace to all the peoples of the region. (2021 Delegates Assembly)

Israel-U.S. Relations
The JCPA calls upon the United States to continue to build upon its special partnership with Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East (February 2001); supports continued strengthening of the U.S.-Israel alliance at the governmental and grass roots levels; and close United States-Israel coordination of peace initiatives (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001).

Israel-American Jewish Relations
The JCPA supports efforts to develop pragmatic and consensus-based solutions to religious and personal status issues in Israel; programs that educate the Jewish community regarding the complexity of religion-state issues in Israel; initiatives that foster unity, cohesiveness, mutual respect, and tolerance among diverse segments of Israeli society; continued philanthropic support to address the humanitarian needs of all the people of Israel; and programs that strengthen the bonds between Israeli and American Jews (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001).

The JCPA will work vigorously in support of efforts to condemn Jewish extremist rhetoric and violence, and to promote intra-communal dialogue. We will urge the full spectrum of religious institutions in Israel and the American Jewish community to consistently condemn explicit extremist rhetoric or hate speech; encourage the development of new initiatives through Israeli and American Jewish institutions, including Jewish-Jewish dialogue, to promote civility and respect for democratic values; counter any attempts to characterize an entire segment of the Jewish community as being monolithic or supportive of the kind of extremist rhetoric that can create a volatile atmosphere: encourage the teaching of Jewish traditions of mutual respect, democratic values and civility as part of the core curriculum in all Israeli and American-Jewish educational institutions; urge all Jewish institutions in Israel, the United States and elsewhere to cultivate an atmosphere of civil and respectful communal discussion on issues related to the peace process and other controversial issues. (JPP 1996-1997)

The JCPA will participate in the wider Jewish communal effort to shape the future of American Jewish-Israel relations, particularly Jewish identity building activities, such as expanding the number of young Jews spending periods of time in Israel, and supporting preparatory and post-experience activities for these individuals; continue to examine the nature and extent of its involvement in those internal public affairs issues in Israel that have implications for American Jewish-Israel relations; and explore joint initiatives with Israel that reflect the Jewish tradition of *tikkun olam* and that strengthen the bonds between the American Jewish community and Israel. (JPP 1995-1996)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Congregations of America considers this topic to be outside the purview of the JCPA.*

The JCPA continues to support Israeli government programs and initiatives by private organizations that promote democracy and pluralism in Israel…we support the principle of electoral reform in Israel as a means of strengthening Israeli democracy and the ability of the government to act decisively. (JPP 1992-1993)

Dissent: *The Union of Orthodox Congregations of America considers this topic to be outside the purview of the JCPA.*

Travel to Israel
The JCPA reaffirms its unflinching support for the Jewish State; encourages all American Jews to visit Israel in the very near future as an expression of their solidarity with the people and the land of Israel (June 2001).

ISRAELI DOMESTIC CONCERNS

The 50th Anniversary of the 1967 War
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that the 50th anniversary of the unification of Jerusalem in Israel's 1967 War of self-defense is an occasion to be celebrated by the organized American Jewish community. (2017 Plenum)

Israeli-Palestinian Coexistence
Throughout its history, the Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) has worked to advance peace and understanding between Israel and the Palestinians. Committed leadership on both sides is essential to achievement of that goal. As an organization devoted to relationship-building, we know that a strong grassroots foundation for such peace is equally important, built through people to people engagement.

To that end, the JCPA supports the creation of the proposed International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace with the goal of promoting and supporting "contact, cooperation, dialogue, shared community building, peaceful coexistence, joint economic development, and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians" through civil society projects, economic development and other such strategies that can bring about a peaceful future for Israelis and Palestinians alike. (2018 Plenum)

Jewish-Arab Coexistence
The JCPA calls for continuing support by the organized Jewish community for coexistence projects in Israel designed to improve relationships between Israeli Jews and Arabs; applauds the efforts by many of our communities to enhance Israeli Jewish/Arab relations and encourages community relations agencies to work in partnership with local federations, where appropriate, to strengthen these co-existence programs and to include access to such programs on their missions; and supports Israel's commitment to maintain a strong vibrant democracy with active participation by all its citizens (Agenda 1999-2000; Resolution February 2001); condemns anyone who expresses support for any acts of terrorism, including such acts carried out by Hamas and Hezbollah; and reaffirms that Israel was created as a Jewish state, must continue to

be supported as a Jewish state, and categorically reject any suggestions that would compromise the institutions that make Israel a Jewish state; applauds the Israeli government's decision to significantly increase its financial commitment to predominantly Arab communities within Israel — to improve both infrastructure and social conditions; believes that such steps will help to reduce the level of tension within Israeli society and strengthen Israel's security; and commends the government's decision to establish a commission to investigate Israel's response to Israeli Arab rioting (February 2001).

Israelis Evacuated by the Disengagement

The Israeli citizens evacuated from their homes in Gaza and northern Shomron amidst the hope that peace would follow still await the resources they need to rebuild and relocate their lives. Many evacuees are without permanent housing, stable jobs, or the resources necessary to fully rehabilitate themselves following the ordeals they experienced. These Israeli citizens need further assistance as they continue to rebuild their lives. The JCPA believes the global Jewish Community must remain committed to supporting these displaced and traumatized Israelis; commends the assistance of the United Jewish Communities and other organizations and communities to these individuals. JCPA member organizations are encouraged to provide financial assistance and emotional support for the displaced former residents of Gaza and the northern Shomron who were evacuated from their homes; Raise awareness regarding the plight of the Gaza and northern Shomron evacuees and seek necessary support for them; Advocate in their meetings with Israeli government officials for the full compensation and rehabilitation of the Gaza and North Shomron evacuees, requesting in their discussions that the Government of Israel declare the housing, employment and social welfare of these Israeli citizens a national mission of appropriate priority. (2007 Plenum)

Cross-Border Concerns

The JCPA believes the global Jewish Community must remain committed to supporting the displaced and crisis-weary Israelis. JCPA member organizations are encouraged to provide financial assistance and emotional support for all the residents of the communities affected by Hezbollah and Palestinian attacks; Raise awareness regarding the plight of the residents of affected towns and seek necessary support for them; Advocate in their meetings with Israeli government officials for economic support for affected southern towns, requesting in their discussions that the Government of Israel declare the housing, employment and social welfare of Israeli citizens a national mission of appropriate priority. (2007 Plenum)

Israel's Environment

The JCPA believes that pollution and the depletion of natural resources in Israel threaten public health, future economic viability, and regional stability the Jewish tradition, informed by primary Jewish sources and by contemporary Jewish insights, includes a mandate to cultivate, protect and nurture the environment; the organized Jewish community has an opportunity to help Israel benefit from the substantial environmental expertise of the United States — through continued support and further development of cooperative projects between the Israeli and United States governments. Faced with these threats to the health and well being of Israel's population, and in the spirit of friendship and mutual benefit that has long characterized the relationship between the United States and Israel The JCPA therefore resolves to support the passage of legislation in Congress which would allocate previously undesignated funding for the implementation of the

U.S./Israel MOU on environmental cooperation; educate the Jewish community about the severity and urgency of the environmental crisis in Israel and urge our members to make tackling this issue a priority in the upcoming year; work in coalition with both faith-based and environmental organizations to help bring American expertise and resources to bear on the environmental problems in Israel; encourage JCPA agencies and communities to aid in the search for research grants that address these issues. (2004 Plenum)

Gender Segregation in Secular Public Spaces in Israel

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that every person, regardless of gender, deserves equal access and use of public services and public secular spaces; pursuant to our sense of justice, and in accordance with Jewish values, it is critical that the Jewish community speak out and take action in opposition to discriminatory acts and behavior that seek to enforce gender segregation in the public, secular sphere. National and local governments, communities, and individuals, should commit to ending the practice of denying women equal access to buses, sidewalks, and other secular, public spaces. Those who practice or advocate violence, or other illegal acts, in an effort to enforce discriminatory practices should be punished to the full extent of the law. Enforced gender segregation in secular public spaces is inconsistent with Israel's founding principles of equality for all regardless of race, creed, or sex. There may indeed be circumstances (such as public swimming pools in Orthodox and Arab neighborhoods) where gender separation will be deemed appropriate to reflect the religious and cultural sensitivities of the intended recipients of the municipal services. Any such accommodations must be crafted with every effort to avoid discrimination against those who do not share those sensitivities and implemented in a way that does not impose particular religious practices on the general society.

The community relations field should express steadfast opposition to forced gender segregation in public, secular places; advocate for effective enforcement of laws that forbid gender segregation in public secular spaces in Israel, including working with Israeli groups and directly communicating with members of Knesset and government officials and should develop resources to advance awareness of this problem and action opportunities to help resolve it. (2012 Plenum)

Social Justice in Israel

The gap between the rich and poor in Israel has continued to grow, with Israel now rated second in the Western world, after the United States, as having the largest gap in income. The hardest hit tend to be Ethiopian Jews, recent immigrant communities, Mizrachim (Jews from the Middle East and North Africa), and/or families living in smaller development towns. Arab citizens of Israel, roughly 20 percent of the population, also suffer tremendously from these problems. We as an American Jewish community need to renew our commitment to assist those Israelis in greatest need. We should do more to help address the social and economic inequities within Israel. This includes narrowing the gap between the rich and the poor, improving educational opportunities for all Israelis, especially in development towns and immigrant communities such as Ethiopian Jews, and ensuring that all citizens of Israel are treated to an equal share of social services. (2003 Plenum)

WORLD JEWRY

In 2020, JCPA's Delegates Assembly voted to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's *non-legally binding* Working Definition of Antisemitism for use by the Jewish community relations field. (See subsection "Antisemitism and Hate Crimes" under "Domestic Issues)

European Anti-Semitism
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: Jews, like all communities, are entitled to live in a secure environment with the freedom to practice their religion and its rituals. Rising anti-Semitism and challenges to religious freedom in Europe are serious and unacceptable. As Jews and as Americans, we are dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights and have a special interest in the well-being of Jewish communities around the world; as such, we are committed to monitoring, exposing and countering anti-Semitism, and to preserving the free exercise of religion, one of our most cherished rights. Where religious freedom is well-established and well-protected, Jewish communities are more secure. Where religious freedom is threatened, Jewish communities are threatened. Anti-Semitism in political discourse adds significantly to the insecurity of Jewish communities and must be consistently and publicly denounced by responsible political leaders. Current efforts by European governments and NGOs are not adequately addressing anti-Semitism and challenges to religious freedom. The challenges facing European Jewish communities merit increased activism by the organized American Jewish community.

The community relations field should: Consult with national agencies and NGOs about anti-Semitic incidents in Europe, including violence, vandalism, and expressions of anti-Semitic sentiment in the media and government; Encourage the U.S. Administration and Members of Congress to raise these concerns with European leaders and to hold hearings to increase awareness of them regularly and on an ongoing basis and in consultation with European Jewish communities to consider further action if needed; Urge European officials both to reassess their legislation, law enforcement and education approaches to anti-Semitism and to consistently and publically denounce anti-Semitism at every turn to better address these serious and troubling issues. In countries where constitutionally permissible, encourage governments to enforce laws against anti-Semitism and hate speech; Raise awareness in the United States of the serious nature of the problems facing European Jewish communities by engaging with American broadcast, print, and online media, and incorporating information on these issues in social media campaigns; Further urge European officials to enforce the recommendations of the OSCE's 2004 Berlin Declaration and to rededicate themselves to the principle that political events in the Middle East or elsewhere never justify anti-Semitism; Share concerns about developments in Europe with American religious and ethnic coalition partners who maintain ties to specific European countries; Encourage non-Jewish groups in Europe and in the United States to speak out against anti-Semitism and threats to religious freedom and to work in coalitions with Jewish communal organizations on these issues. (2014 Plenum)

Jews from Arab Countries

The JCPA reaffirms its support for the initiative "*Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC)*" and recalls its commitment to provide the Jewish community relations field with periodic updates regarding its progress. Further, the JCPA supports local efforts that work at the grassroots level to bring this issue to the public's attention. The community relations field should support an internal registry campaign to assist in the collection of testimonials and the compilation of records in order to preserve the historical narrative as well as to document the physical and material losses suffered by Jews displaced from Arab countries. Document the legal bases, in international law and jurisprudence, for pursuing rights and redress for the losses suffered by Jews displaced from Arab countries. The community relations field should raise the issue of Jews displaced from Arab countries in professional or legal associations, with relevant governments and international bodies, and in meetings with officials of municipal, state and federal or international entities. Mobilize Jewish communal support and action in support of the rights of Jews from Arab countries including lectures, media relations, and educational efforts, among others. (2004 Plenum)

Anti-Semitism Related To Middle Eastern Tensions

The JCPA is greatly concerned by the spate of anti-Semitic incidents, which appear to be related to Israel-Palestinian tensions; urges government and community leaders to make it clear that they will not tolerate attacks against Jewish institutions and that disagreements over the situation in the Middle East, however passionate, must be expressed with civilized speech and behavior; calls on the Palestinian Authority, Egypt and Jordan to live up to their commitments to eradicate anti-Israel and anti-Semitic incitement in the media and in the classroom, and begin to seriously educate their populations — children and adults — on Jews, Israel, tolerance and non-violence (October 2000; February 2001); and pledges to persevere both in its support for Middle East peace and Jewish-Muslim understanding here in America (October 2000).

Jews in the Former Soviet Union

The JCPA supports increased vigilance and advocacy by the organized Jewish community and the U.S. government with regard to anti-Semitism in the Former Soviet Union (FSU); efforts to promote the rule of law, as well as economic and democratic reforms in the FSU, in order to ensure a safe and productive environment for Jewish expression and *aliyah* agenda; programs that promote the safety and welfare of the Jewish community in the FSU (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001); encourages engagement in renewal of Jewish communal life through Kehilla projects, humanitarian assistance and other exchanges (Agenda 1998-1999); encourage government and community leaders, academics, journalist in the successor states of the FSU to take public stands against anti-Semitism and racism generally, and to adopt and enforce laws against racial incitement; promote institutionalization of judicial, legislative and law enforcement reform which will help the FSU states make the transition to rule of law societies (JPP 1995-1996).

Ethiopian Jews

The JCPA supports a greater effort by the Israeli government and American Jewish community to meet absorption needs of the Ethiopian community in Israel; and expeditious and sensitive resolution of the Falash Mura issue (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001).

The JCPA urges the Israeli government to take all necessary measures, including intensive discussions with the Ethiopian government, to accelerate the movement to Israel of those Falash Mura near the Addis Ababa compound who are eligible for Israeli citizenship and to expedite pending investigations of the remaining Falash Mura; seeks to assure that the humanitarian needs of those Falash Mura found ineligible to go to Israel also are addressed in an appropriate manner, and explores with U.S. government officials, if appropriate, how this country might provide diplomatic and other assistance. (1996 Plenum)

Ethiopian Falash Mura

Israel has always been committed to helping every Jew who wants to make *Aliyah*, especially those from challenging situations. We recognize that the question of the Jewish status of the Falash Mura is complicated, that Israel has limited resources, and that Israel has the right to determine its own criteria for immigration. In addition, we believe that Israel has a humanitarian obligation to resolve the issue of Falash Mura immigration.

The JCPA urges the Government of Israel to complete the current review of the remaining Falash Mura in Gondar and the process of *Aliyah* within twenty-four months.

Action Recommendations: In view of the humanitarian crisis in Gondar and the desire to finish the *Aliyah*, the JCPA urges its member agencies to: Urge the Government of Israel to expedite both the review of the Falash Muras' eligibility for *Aliyah* and the immigration to Israel of those deemed eligible; Take a sensitive and humanitarian approach for all Falash Mura who are found to be ineligible to immigrate to Israel; Make a priority for the North American Jewish Communities of this *Aliyah* — including providing support for those waiting to have their eligibility checked and those who have been deemed eligible to make *Aliyah* and waiting to make *Aliyah* – to complete this stirring chapter in Jewish history. (2010 Plenum)

Argentinean Jewry

The JCPA stands in solidarity with the Jewish community in Argentina; calls upon the Argentinean government to safeguard against future attacks on the Jewish community, including addressing the problem of extreme political forces in the country that promote or tolerate racial hatred and engage in acts of anti-Semitism (February 2000; Resolution February 2001); and urges development of cooperation among the various Argentine faith communities, including lay and religious leaders, as a means of enhancing security in the country. (February 2000).

The JCPA calls upon the Argentinean government to bring all the perpetrators of the heinous Israeli embassy and AMIA bombings before competent judicial tribunals; advocates for access at the AMIA trial to independent human rights organizations and NGOs in order to insure a transparent and fair proceeding and calls upon the international community to join in monitoring the trial; urges our member organizations to keep these issues at the forefront of the U.S and world attention until they have been resolved in a satisfactory manner; calls upon the Administration and Congress to use their good offices with the government of Argentina to do everything possible to bring the perpetrators of the two terrorist attacks to justice. (February 2000; Resolution February 2001)

Eurasian Jews
For Jews in Eurasia, new freedoms accompanying the democratization process are enabling revitalization of Jewish life…the specter of anti-Semitism, however, is reappearing in varying degrees…the JCPA supports democratically-oriented forces in Eurasian countries; monitoring of anti-Semitism there; deepening of relations between American Jewish community and Jewish communities in Eurasia. (JPP 1990-1991)

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

Support of United Nations
The JCPA supports full payment of United States dues to the United Nations (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001). While not perfect, the UN continues to offer the best forum for discussing global issues. (1997)

Terrorism, Arms Control, and Weapons of Mass Destruction
The JCPA calls on other nations to applaud the freezing of assets of groups and individuals that have been linked to terrorist activities, as well as moves by major corporations and philanthropies who have blocked donations to such organizations. (2002 Plenum)

The JCPA supports vigorous United States and international efforts to restrain Iran, and other rogue states and terrorist groups from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and delivery capability; and prevention of nuclear arms races in volatile areas of the world (Agenda 2000-2001); urges the U.S. to place a high priority on developing and enforcing more stringent international controls on the sale and transfer of advanced weapons and technology (Agenda 1997-1998). With the collapse of the Soviet Union, and with it the U.S.-U.S.S.R. superpower rivalry, the JCPA urges the U.S. government to pursue a world-wide ban on nuclear testing…encourages the international community to address the problem of both legal and illegal trade of nuclear and other non-conventional weapons, including the safe disposal and/or control of nuclear material. (JPP 1996-1997)

Dissent: *The Jewish War Veterans considers the call for a world-wide ban on nuclear arms testing misconceived and dangerous. Until all nations are fully divested of their nuclear arsenals and the ability to create them, such talk of a ban on nuclear weapons testing is premature.*

International Religious Freedom
The JCPA is committed to protecting religious freedom by raising awareness about and speaking out against religious persecution wherever it exists. The JCPA resolves to call upon the governments of the world to end all persecution on the basis of religious beliefs or practices; ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and abide by the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and hold themselves and other governments to commitments arising from their ratification of international agreements as they apply to religious freedoms; without the creation of exceptions; call upon the United States government to support religious freedom around the world and take appropriate action when there are violations of religious freedom; and call upon the United States government to implement the recommendations of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, including but not

limited to engaging in high-level dialogue with foreign governments aimed at addressing religious persecution; facilitating reform in countries that restrict religious freedom by providing training for lawyers, lawmakers, and judges; encouraging other governments to ratify agreements to uphold religious freedom and other human rights, and holding participating governments to commitments made by their ratification of international agreements; placing sanctions on foreign governments when ongoing systemic persecution persists; enhancing the training of foreign service officers and U.S. Administration and legislative officials about the role of religion in the world's varied societies and the problems of religious persecution; and supporting and cooperating with organizations and coalitions working for religious freedom, and providing humanitarian and legal support to victims of religious persecution. (2004 Plenum)

Foreign Aid

The JCPA will continue to educate the Jewish community and the public in general about the importance of foreign aid and its moral, political and strategic value in sub-Saharan Africa, the former Soviet Union and throughout the world (JPP 1996-1997); take the lead in forming alliances with religious, ethnic, environmental, humanitarian and other groups concerned with U.S foreign assistance, with the goal of building wider support for an increase over time in the total funds appropriated for foreign aid (JPP 1994-1995); work for appropriate increases in the overall foreign aid budget that enable the U.S. to fully meet its responsibilities, particularly with regard to emerging democracies in Eurasia and Central America, and humanitarian needs in sub-Saharan Africa (JPP 1990-1991)

Africa

The JCPA emphasizes the need for greater attention to the African continent; advocates for humanitarian assistance to and humanitarian intervention in African countries during times of crisis; calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations, the President of the United States, all world leaders, and members of Congress, to condemn acts of violence against innocent populations as well as the horror of slavery; reaffirms our commitment to basic international human rights, including, but-not limited to- political organization, free assembly, free speech, health care, family planning and reproductive freedom, education, a healthy environment, women's rights and core labor rights, and the elimination of hunger, poverty and discrimination; advocates for a variety of increased economic development initiatives for Africa, including trade priorities, debt relief where appropriate, micro enterprises, training and business programs (including those for women), which serve as catalysts for sustained growth and equitable development while protecting the environment; advocates for expansion of government funds for African development, including the U.S. Development Fund for Africa and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to meet the pressing needs of civil society, such as measures to prevent the spread of HIV and sleeping sickness disease, develop treatments for AIDS, and eliminate hunger; reaffirms our dedication to combat global poverty and hunger by recognizing the priority of policies that focus on poor countries; and commends the State of Israel for its support of economic and social development and humanitarian and medical assistance in Africa, and urges recognition of Israel's positive role by governments and the media. (February 2001)

Iran

The JCPA believes that efforts to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power should be a high priority of the United States and the international community; Iran's efforts to develop nuclear

weapons should be condemned; Iran must abide by its commitment to grant IAEA inspectors full, unrestricted access and cooperate fully with the investigation of Iranian nuclear activities.

The community relations field should encourage the administration to continue to address the challenge posed by Iran's efforts to acquire nuclear weapons capability, and communicate concern about this issue to members of Congress as well as representatives of foreign nations (particularly Russia and the European Union) and to the United Nations; and, Work with Jewish and appropriate non-Jewish coalition partners to raise awareness about this issue, continue to monitor the situation and provide guidance as needed. (2005 Plenum)

A number of Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan, have also warned that Iran's development of nuclear weapons poses a threat to Middle East stability and could provoke nuclear arms proliferation throughout the region. Meanwhile, the Teheran regime has defied the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations in their attempts to monitor Iran's nuclear program, and, as a result, the UN Security Council to date has imposed on Iran escalating sanctions under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

The JCPA believes that the threat of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons is a matter of the gravest concern and utmost urgency to the world. Therefore, the Jewish community relations field is urged immediately to independently and together with political, civic and religious partners in the general community, advocate that the United States, the leadership of the United Nations, particularly the permanent members of the UN Security Council, as well as other relevant governmental and non-governmental institutions, utilize all diplomatic and economic measures necessary to deter Iran from continuing its quest for nuclear weapons, while respecting the humanitarian needs of the Iranian people. Economic measures after appropriate consideration should include, for example, sanctions, targeted divestment (particularly direct divestment), and bank transfer restrictions aimed at the Tehran regime. (Board of Directors, March 27, 2007)

Dependence on Foreign Energy Sources

The JCPA calls on Congress and the Administration to expeditiously address the urgent need to reduce the United States' dependence on foreign oil by developing and implementing a comprehensive, environmentally sound energy plan. The JCPA believes such a multifaceted approach should include: Supporting the modernization and expansion of America's energy infrastructure with sensitivity to our natural environment; Dramatically increasing energy efficiency and conservation; Rapidly developing, producing, and marketing renewable and alternative energy technologies; Developing and implementing environmentally responsible options to increase overall domestic energy production; Collaborate with international partners to develop global solutions; Diversifying foreign energy sources to reduce our reliance on hostile regimes; Expanding cost-efficient, energy-efficient alternatives to ensure that conservation is a viable option for all Americans; Improving mass transit options to reduce the consumption of oil by American vehicles; Supporting changes in urban and suburban communities that facilitate effective use of modes of transportation that do not consume external energy, such as cycling and walking; Offering economic and other incentives to purchase more fuel-efficient or alternatively-fueled vehicles and to rely upon public transportation; Mandating significant enhancements in fuel economy standards for all modes of transportation and improving mass transit options;

Increasing public awareness through broad education campaigns; Exploring the use of nuclear energy with appropriate safeguards. (2007 Plenum)

INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS

International Human Rights

The JCPA supports the vigorous protection of human rights as an integral part of U.S. foreign policy, and urges effective American involvement in this area, on a multilateral basis when possible and a unilateral basis when necessary. (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001)

The JCPA believes that each human rights situation should be examined separately, with a view toward developing an approach that has the greatest chance of achieving the desired result. (Agenda 1998-1999)

Since 1950, China has engaged in the systematic persecution of the Tibetan people through imprisonment, torture, rape and the execution of supporters of the Dalai Lama. In East Timor, the Indonesian occupation forces have murdered a significant portion of the civilian population and tortured many others. Thousands of innocent civilians have been slaughtered during the recent unrest in Algeria. Genocidal conflicts continue to take a terrible toll in Central Africa. The JCPA appeals to the Administration and to the UN to develop effective responses to these and other humanitarian crises. (Agenda 1998-1999)

Genocide and Mass Atrocities

The JCPA believes that there are moral imperatives in taking action through diplomatic, legal, political and economic measures, as well as outreach to the media, and ultimately, if necessary, consideration of military operations against genocide or other mass atrocities; The U.S. should work with allies to improve responsiveness of the existing U.N. Security Council system while preparing and signaling a willingness, if the U.N. security council fails to act in future mass atrocity crises, to take other steps to address them; Even when military force is not ultimately used, the credible threat of it may be needed to strengthen non- military efforts to deter or prevent further atrocities. Military operations short of major invasion could include: securing/controlling transportation routes and borders, reinforcing peace operations, enforcing no fly zones, providing safe havens, arms embargoes, and/or jamming broadcasts and other communications.

The JCPA calls upon the government of the United States to view as a fundamental national and global interest the development of policies and global partnerships geared toward the prevention and ending of mass atrocities and, more particularly, prevention and punishment of genocide; Supports using diplomatic, legal, political, and economic measures, including outreach to the media to expose genocide and other mass atrocities and, where other options are unavailable or ineffective, consideration of military operations in the pursuit of this objective; Should advocate for economic measures including the option of targeted divestment from companies doing business with countries that are committing genocide; Advocate for the aforementioned positions and messages to decision makers and opinion molders in the general community, to the

Administration, to Congress, and to the international community; and convey its own commitment to these principles to the Jewish community. (2011 Plenum)

Uyghur Genocide

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that:

- The Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to raise awareness about and advocate against the mass atrocities being committed against the Uyghurs as well as other religious and ethnic minorities living within China.

- The Jewish community should call upon the CCP to end the genocide and exploitation of the Uyghurs, as well as halt the oppression of other ethnic and religious minorities living within its borders.

- The CCP is systematically engaging in genocide[9] and other human rights violations, including -- but not limited to -- the internment of millions of Uyghurs in detention camps; severe restrictions on culture, religion, and language to impose forced assimilation; pervasive surveillance and monitoring; utilizing the Uyghur population for forced labor; instituting state-sponsored mass rape of Uyghur women; and the enforcement of sterilization policies.

- Businesses and nonprofit organizations should evaluate and disclose their supply chains in China to ensure that materials are not sourced from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), as well as implement policies and protocols to ensure the products they sell are not made by slave labor.[10]

- Congress and the Administration must continue to mandate strong economic sanctions against Chinese officials and other individuals responsible for human rights violations, as well as Chinese businesses that source their materials from the XUAR.

- Congress and the Administration must expand current bans on products that are produced in or imported from the XUAR and ensure enforcement, as well as pass legislation requiring American businesses to disclose their supply chains in the XUAR.

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[9] For purposes of this resolution, "genocide" refers to the definition outlined in Article III of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide which states, "In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group, as such: a) killing members of the group; b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

[10] Section 1502 of the Dodd-Frank Act served as the first federal legislation in this area and states that publicly traded companies that manufacture or contract to manufacture products using certain conflict minerals must disclose the source of their supply chains.

- The United States government and international community must pressure the CCP to permit increased access to human rights groups and other non-governmental organizations to allow for more robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms in the XUAR.

- Congress and the Administration must uphold the genocide determination issued on January 19, 2021 and affirm their commitment to prevent and punish the crime of genocide as outlined in Article V of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.[11]

The Jewish community relations field should:

- Publicly condemn the many reported cruel and inhumane actions of the CCP against Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority populations.

- Lead in working with faith communities, ethnic and community-based organizations, educators, and other stakeholders to create a grassroots atrocity prevention movement related to the Uyghurs, including joining coalitions dedicated to this issue.

- Given the determination of genocide by the United States Department of State, urge Congress and the Administration to immediately fulfill its obligation of preventing further atrocities as set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide by utilizing all methods at its disposal.

- Urge Congress and the Administration to pursue this issue in international forums like the United Nations and encourage the international community to support similar measures in their home countries.

- Educate local Jewish communities and raise awareness about the atrocities being committed against the Uyghur people to build support for United States action. (2021 Delegates Assembly)

Rohingya Genocide

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that there is compelling evidence that the Burmese military committed genocide against Rohingya people—the deliberate and intentional destruction of their community based on their ethnicity and religion; it is incumbent upon the Jewish community raise awareness about and advocate against the slaughter, persecution, and displacement of the Rohingya people at the hands of the Burmese military; the Jewish

[11] Article V of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide states, "The Contracting Parties undertake to enact, in accordance with their respective Constitutions, the necessary legislation to give effect to the provisions of the present Convention and, in particular, to provide effective penalties for persons guilty of genocide or of any of the other acts enumerated in article III."

community, for whom the words “Never Again” is a rallying cry against genocide and other atrocities, cannot remain silent; and Congress and the Administration should condemn the genocide and mandate strong economic sanctions and humanitarian assistance, as crucial steps in stopping the violence.

The Jewish community relations field should urge the United States government and the international community to immediately: impose targeted sanctions on Burmese military officials and others involved in the ongoing atrocities; provide humanitarian aid to Rohingya refugees; explore international justice mechanisms, such as the International Criminal Court, to adjudicate the crimes committed by the Burmese military against civilians, including the Rohingya people; and urge all nations to cease arms sales to the Burmese military.

The Jewish community relations field should also educate the community and raise awareness about the genocide of the Rohingya people to build support for United States action; call on international bodies to ensure that any repatriation planning process include Rohingya decision-makers, and restore full citizenship to the Rohingya people with human rights and safety guarantees; and work within local communities to build interfaith, intercommunity coalitions to advocate for the rights of the Rohingya people. (2019 Delegates Assembly)

Genocide in Darfur

The JCPA believes that the human rights situation in the Sudan, in general, and in Darfur, in particular, requires the urgent and sustained attention of the new administration, with the support of Congress. The JCPA and its member agencies call upon the U.S. government to intensify diplomatic efforts, including the appointment of a senior full-time envoy to the Sudan, in combination with the use of stepped up sanctions with teeth directed at the regime in Khartoum; support prosecution by the International Criminal Court of alleged perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide; not exclude the option of military means if feasible, and in coalition with other countries, to protect the innocent civilians in Darfur and to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid; and actively pursue, along with governments of other key nations, implementation of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement — which ended the North-South War and provides a framework for a lasting peace in Sudan. (2009 Plenum)

The JCPA is deeply concerned and outraged by the ongoing tragedy in Darfur. A targeted approach to divestment along with intensive diplomatic efforts would deprive the Sudanese government of resources in needs to continue its genocide and exert significant pressure on the government of Sudan to change its behavior.

Targeted divestment is the removal of investments in companies that are directly or indirectly helping the Sudanese government to perpetuate genocide. Since the ultimate intent of Sudan divestment is to protect the victims of genocide, it is important to tailor divestment to have maximal impact on the government of Sudan's behavior and minimal harm to innocent Sudanese (and to the financial health of institutional portfolios in the US). Divestment should therefore be targeted to those companies that have a business relationship with the government or a government-created project, impart minimal benefit to the country's underprivileged, and have implemented no significant corporate governance policy regarding the Darfur situation. Such targeted divestment implicitly excludes companies involved in agriculture, production and

distribution of consumer goods, or engaged solely in the provision of goods and services intended to relieve human suffering or to promote welfare, health, religious and spiritual activities, and education.

Withdrawal of business investments from Sudan would simultaneously create an economic penalty for genocide and reduce the Sudanese government's ability to fund the campaign. Therefore, the JCPA calls on communities to support the campaign calling for a targeted divestment in Sudan as led by the Sudan Divestment Task Force, which has identified the companies that will be targeted. (2007 Plenum)

JCPA and its member agencies should: Call upon all world leaders and the United Nations to condemn the Sudanese government's acts of violence and genocide against innocent civilians; Press the international community to demand that the Sudanese Government and rebel forces honor their existing agreements, particularly provisions to immediately cease all violence and attacks, refrain from forcible relocation of civilians, ensure that humanitarian relief reaches all those in need; and cooperate with human rights monitoring efforts; Press the international community to advocate for increased capacity of the African Union in Darfur and giving them a clear mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter to protect civilians and enforce the ceasefire; encourage countries to provide the Union with the required equipment, logistical, financial, material and other necessary resources, assume its responsibility to protect innocent civilians through the UN or other multi-national forces by any means including military intervention if necessary, impose an arms embargo with a mechanism for monitoring and enforcement on the Government of Sudan and rebel forces if they do not cease all violence, impose targeted sanctions on the Sudanese government and its business interests as a means of pressuring the government to end the genocide, support NATO enforcement of a no-fly zone over the Darfur region, pressure the Sudanese government to establish the conditions necessary to permit the voluntary, safe and dignified return of those displaced by the conflict, expand the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to coordinate services for internally displaced people in Darfur, and, hold accountable those responsible for these atrocities; Encourage worldwide governmental and non-governmental humanitarian assistance to meet the humanitarian need in that region; Help in relief efforts by supporting organizations giving aid, particularly noting the work of the Jewish community in such efforts; Call upon the Sudanese government and the international community to reconstruct homes and villages and return the refugees to their land after the region is secure; Demand that U.S. elected officials and decision makers stay vigilant on this issue and take a pro-active role; Educate our constituencies about the crisis in Darfur; Locally and nationally, organize with other faith and communal organizations activities to raise awareness about this crisis. (2005 Plenum)

Armenian Genocide

Historians and scholars tell us that the Armenian people were the victims of the first genocide of the twentieth century at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, the predecessors of modern-day Turkey. Approximately 1.5 million Armenians were killed or expelled from their homes and deported. The year 2015 is the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide.

The government of Turkey has, to this day, refused to acknowledge such genocide took place. The Armenian Genocide is a distant memory in the minds of the children of survivors. However,

there is abundant documentation of the atrocities, particularly by former U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau. Nevertheless, Hitler stated in 1939, "Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?" The Jewish communities, as the targets of one of the worst genocides of the twentieth century, have a bond with the Armenian people here in the United States and abroad. We have a moral obligation to work toward recognition of the genocide perpetrated against the Armenian people.

The word genocide was coined just prior to the end of World War II, and the word Holocaust did not come into common usage to describe what happened to the Jews until after WWII. However, the term "genocide" may be attributed to atrocities that meet the definition of genocide after they have taken place. The U.S. government has yet to name what happened to the Armenian people for a variety of reasons. The most obvious is the fear that doing so will hurt our relationship with Turkey. Turkey spans the east and west. The United States needs Turkey's permission to fly over its territory and for support services in the United States' activities in Iraq, its attempts to keep Iran in check, and to fight ISIS. After 100 years, it is time for the U.S. to face facts and acknowledge that what happened in 1915 and in subsequent years was genocide.

Since at least 1951 there have been numerous references by U.S. government officials, Congress, and previous presidents to what happened to the Armenians as genocide. These have often been during events held in commemoration of the anniversary of the start of the genocide. But efforts to pass a House resolution officially recognizing it have failed, often as a result of lobbying on behalf of Turkey. President Barack Obama, as a senator, pledged to support congressional resolutions to recognize the Armenian Genocide. As a presidential candidate, he once again promised to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Yet once he became president, political realities prevented such a move. At this time, some 23 foreign countries, a number of world organizations, and 44 U.S. states have recognized the genocide that took place against the Armenian people. The Union for Reform Judaism, Anti-Defamation League, and American Jewish Committee have previously taken positions recognizing the genocide, as well as some U.S. church groups.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: The Jewish people have asked the world to bear witness to the Holocaust. As we say Never Again, we must likewise bear witness to other people's genocide and say Never Again. We suffer greatly from efforts to minimize our own suffering and experience of genocide and we have a moral responsibility, as Jews, to name it in others' experience. We must not let the politics of the moment, or the U.S. government's relationship with Turkey, sway our moral obligation to recognize the suffering of the Armenian people. We call upon our the Congress and the President to officially recognize what started in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, and resulted in the killing and deportation of approximately 1.5 million Armenians, as the Armenian Genocide.

The community relations field should: Consult and work with the national Armenian organizations to further the goal of U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Consult and work with the major Jewish organizations to raise awareness of the issue and gain their support in working to gain U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Consult and work with our interfaith coalition partners to further the aim of U.S. recognition of the Armenian Genocide. Urge our congressional representatives to support resolutions in Congress that call for the United

States to recognize the Armenian Genocide. Call upon the President to recognize the Armenian Genocide. (2015 Plenum)

Family Planning
The JCPA believes that the US government should support comprehensive international family planning programs. The Administration should restore the $34 million in funds to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) approved by Congress; repeal the Global Gag Rule; appropriate $5.4 billion annually to fight global AIDS, TB, and malaria, but not at the expense of other critical development initiatives. The community relations field should urge Congress and the Administration to fully fund comprehensive family planning programs; urge Congress to oppose efforts to restrict the services, information and education international family planning programs provide in developing countries; educate the public on the ways in which international family planning programs positively influence the health of women, their families, developing countries and the environment; educate the public on the negative effects of restricting funds for international family planning programs. (2004 Plenum)

Debt Cancellation
The Jewish Council of Public Affairs commends the United States government for its leadership in calling for 100% debt cancellation for poor countries; calls on the G8 to continue negotiations concerning debt cancellation until such an agreement is reached on 100% cancellation of debt owed by poor countries to lender nations, the IMF, World Bank and regional development banks; supports efforts to cancel 100% of the debts owed by countries with accountable and responsible governments, burdened with high levels of human need and environmental distress, which are unable to meet the basic needs of their people or achieve a level of sustainable development that ensures a decent quality of life; opposes imposing conditions on countries in exchange for debt cancellation that have the effect of deepening poverty or degrading the environment, such as requiring user fees for health care or education, or the implementation of unsustainable farming practices; supports debt cancellation that includes provisions to assure both transparency and accountability, so that resources reach the populations most in need, and that this program be used to promote human rights in the beneficiary countries. (2005 Plenum)

International Criminal Court
The JCPA supports refinements in the International Criminal Court that may enable Israel and the U.S. to join the tribunal. (Agenda 1999-2000; Agenda 2000-2001)

The JCPA supports the initiative to establish a permanent and effective International Criminal Court, and urges the U.S. to take the lead in this effort…It views the establishment of a permanent judicial forum with appropriate safeguards to avoid politicizing the process as an important step forward in securing international human rights. (1998)

LGBT Discrimination
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: Condemning bias and discrimination faced by LGBT people is a recognition of the reality that LGBT people worldwide are subject to significant incidences of biased and discriminatory laws and violence, and is not a reflection on Jewish law about homosexual activity; Regardless of religious viewpoints held by citizens of any nation, no LGBT person should be publically condemned, face political retribution, or fear a

violent culture of state-induced hatred as a result of their identity, associations or political speech; Congress, the President and the United States Department of State should make protecting LGBT persons from discrimination abroad an important human rights priority.

The Community Relations Field should: Advocate with members of Congress, the administration, and local Consular officials for the removal of laws that discriminate against members of the LGBT community throughout the world; Educate the community about the plight of persecuted and discriminated LGBT communities and individuals throughout the world; Oppose efforts to promote hatred, oppression and discrimination of LGBT people anywhere. (2014 Plenum)

***Abstention**: The Union of Orthodox Congregations of America.*

Persecution of Religious Minorities
The 105th Congress enacted the International Religious Freedom Act, which promises to be an important tool in efforts to address human rights violations around the world. The law establishes a special unit within the State Department to deal with the persecution of religious minorities and sets forth a variety of sanctions the U.S. can employ against countries that engage in such activity. (Agenda 1999-2000)

Freedom of Expression/Defamation of Religion
The Jewish community relations field is called upon to: Oppose efforts to criminalize speech under the vague definition of "defamation of religion" as a violation of universal freedoms of expression and belief; Urge the U.S., the European nations, and others to oppose all attempts to amend international law to curb freedom of expression under the guise of protecting religions or any ideology from criticism; Uphold the principle that all faiths, beliefs and ideas must be open to debate, discussion, and even criticism; Continue to be vigilant in speaking out against the demonization of any religion. (2009 Plenum)

Advancing Women's Rights
The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) urges the United States to ratify the Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), a landmark Convention that has been ratified by 168 countries, including Israel. (2002 Plenum)

Global AIDS Pandemic
The JCPA commends those governments, international organizations, and private foundations that have taken the lead in combating the global AIDS pandemic and call upon the United States government and governments and non-governmental organizations around the world to commit to funding a need-based response to the global AIDS pandemic; call on the United States to contribute an amount commensurate to its relative wealth, as measured by the World Bank, to the global effort to combat AIDS, TB, and Malaria, without restrictions which limit options for treatment and prevention programs; support efforts to combat the global AIDS pandemic that integrate comprehensive, science-based prevention strategies, especially the search for effective, low cost and universally available vaccines; access to life-saving medications; and universal AIDS related education; support efforts to combat the global AIDS pandemic that incorporate a comprehensive response to the growing orphan crisis, including universal access to education,

housing, health care, and other social services; urge U.S. bilateral aid and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, which is already coordinating much of the global response to the AIDS crisis; support U.S. trade policies that ensure access to affordable generic drugs for all developing countries; and support the use of the United States government's influence as the largest donor to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund to negotiate debt cancellation for all poor countries facing AIDS crises in exchange for that country's investment in AIDS education, prevention and treatment. (2004 Plenum)

Torture

The JCPA opposes the use of torture and affirms the continued validity and legal definitions present in the Geneva Conventions and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment; opposes the practice of 'extraordinary rendition', which is commonly defined as an extrajudicial procedure that sends criminal suspects to other countries, specifically to those that are suspected of using torture during interrogation; Supports allowing all people in U.S. custody subject to the Geneva Conventions the right to be visited by the International Committee of the Red Cross; supports efforts to examine past practices and ensure that interrogations by military and intelligence agencies comport with international conventions; and, urges the community relations field to work independently and in coalitions to advance the above. (2006 Plenum)

Human Trafficking

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes that: the Jewish community has a moral and ethical responsibility to combat modern day slavery in the U.S. and around the world and has a strong record of working for a commitment to human rights; Comprehensive action is needed to create a grassroots movement within the U.S.at the local, state, and national levels to end modern day slavery; Laws, regulations, and enforcement must be strengthened at all levels of government to deter and combat human trafficking; facilitate the rescuing of survivors; and ensure prosecution of perpetrators and users of slaves; The Jewish community should lead in working with faith communities, ethnic and community based organizations, health professionals, service providers, educators and other stakeholders to create an abolitionist movement against slavery; Large sporting events are associated with an increase in trafficking and therefore efforts and opportunities to deter the demand and educate the community should be heightened in preparation for these events; Businesses and not- for-profit organizations should participate in the fair-trade movement and ensure that policies and protocols are in place so the products we purchase are not made by slave labor.

The community relations field should: Establish and convene a national coalition and statewide coalitions made up of interfaith, inter-ethnic, community based, educational organizations, health providers and others to create an abolitionist movement against modern day slavery. The Coalition would advocate, educate, and share resources to combat human trafficking; Advocate for: Implementation of the recommendations of the White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Community Partnerships; Passage and full funding of national legislation to address human trafficking in the U.S. and abroad; Encourage Businesses to sign ECPAT-USA's Code of Conduct – the travel and tourism industries child protection code of conduct- and encourage those in the travel and tourism industry to set protocols in place. Encourage businesses across the board to initiate similar code of conducts; Formation of statewide coalitions where they are not

already in place focused on trafficking awareness, education, and advocacy; Passage and implementation of state and local human trafficking prevention, protection, and treatment laws that provide: consequences to those benefitting from slaves, including those using the services and the perpetrators; and restitution and rehabilitation for survivors; Coordination among law enforcement at both the federal and state levels; Attorney Generals to issue directives and train local law enforcement in identifying and responding to human trafficking accusations and in providing support to survivors; and separate trafficking courts in the states with trained judges, attorneys, and law enforcement; Local businesses, television stations, law enforcement, educators, and all first responders to publicize the national hotline number; Shelters and safe houses in communities for victims of trafficking; Education in elementary, middle and high schools to raise awareness about human trafficking. (2014 Plenum)

The JCPA believes that the demand for and apparatus that facilitates the movement of modern-day slaves around the world must be eliminated; human trafficking is a crime that harms millions of victims worldwide; and that, the public should be alerted to the risks involved with it and work with the American government and United Nations to combat trafficking.

The JCPA and its member agencies should advocate for consistent and comprehensive state and federal anti-trafficking laws that provide for criminal penalties for traffickers as well as protection and rehabilitation for victims; raising the issue of human trafficking in the United Nations and for leaders of the world to work together to end it; support the State Department's efforts to curtail the demand for human trafficking and to work extensively with governments on action plans for prevention of human trafficking; support the State Department's efforts with Tier 2 and Tier 3 countries, and any country that demonstrates immediate and obvious violations not recognized in the previous year's TIP report; encourage local and state law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies to prosecute the traffickers and protect the victims; and, join in coalition with other groups offering advocacy and assistance to the victims of trafficking. (2006 Plenum)

Refugee Crisis in Syria

Guided by our own history as refugees as well as our shared biblical and prophetic mandate to protect and welcome the stranger, the American Jewish community has always been a stakeholder in refugee resettlement and protection, both in the U.S. and in other countries—offering new beginnings, including helping to welcome more than three million refugees who have arrived in the U.S. for resettlement since the enactment of the Refugee Act of 1980.

By definition, refugees are persons who cannot return to their countries of origin due to a well-founded fear of persecution on the basis of who they are or what they believe. The 1951 UN Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol (the Refugee Convention) prohibits returning a refugee to his or her country of persecution; requires access to fair and humane asylum procedures for all asylum seekers; and states that countries shall not penalize refugees for illegal entry or presence. There are 148 countries that have signed either one or both of these international legal instruments, including the United States, Israel, and all European Union member states.

The most staggering refugee situation today is the crisis stemming from Syria's civil war—now in its fifth year. There are an estimated four million Syrian refugees who have fled their country

and eight million people internally displaced within the country. These people have faced horrific violence and persecution, many risking their lives in an effort to reach a country that will provide refuge.

Over the last five years, conditions have gone from bad to worse in Syria and for those fleeing from the conflict. Refugees in host countries, whether in camps or in urban environments, face inadequate housing and food, limited access to medical and psychological care, lack of educational opportunities, and limited resources.

The United States has provided significant funding to assist Syrian refugees, but it is nowhere near enough to meet the growing needs. The countries bordering Syria—primarily Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey—are struggling with the challenges of hosting large numbers of refugees and are preventing many refugees from entering. The scope of the crisis is so vast that it threatens to destabilize the entire region, and deteriorating conditions in countries of first asylum are causing secondary mass displacements.

For many of the refugees who have fled their homes in Syria, resettlement to a third country is, for the foreseeable future, the best opportunity for them to restart their lives in safety. 2 With the largest and most sophisticated resettlement program in the world, the U.S. can and should increase the number of refugees it resettles from Syria and enhance efficiency of the resettlement program. This leadership will encourage other countries to step up their efforts as well. In addition to saving lives in this crisis, we take note that resettled refugees have a historical track record of enhancing diversity and boosting the economy in communities around the country.

The U.S. Refugee Admissions Program is built on a model of self-sufficiency— refugees receive employment authorization upon arrival, and they are encouraged to become employed as soon as possible. Most refugees begin working in entry-level jobs at first, and before long they start businesses, pay taxes, and purchase goods and services.

The Jewish Council for Public Affairs believes: The international community must respond to the Syrian refugee crisis. This must include contributing significant aid and utilizing refugee resettlement to save lives and share responsibility with countries of first asylum. Refugees must be treated with dignity and respect. This includes providing access to protection, livelihoods, medical services, and education.

The community relations field should: Urge the international community to significantly increase humanitarian aid funding to ensure that Syrian refugees' basic needs are met in countries of first asylum. Call on the international community and Syrian refugee-hosting countries to strengthen the infrastructure of refugee-hosting communities to ensure that proper resources are allocated to provide services both to their citizens and to refugees. Encourage the international community, led by the United States and Europe—and in alignment with the principles of international customary law and the generous humanitarian intent behind the Refugee Convention of 1951 and its 1967 Protocol— to share responsibility with host countries, particularly Jordan, Lebanon, and Turkey, and resettle meaningful numbers of Syrian refugees. In the case of the United States, with the most sophisticated resettlement program in the world, we urge the Administration to increase annual admissions of Syrian refugees while maintaining the rigorous security screenings

that are integral to the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. Strive to create a welcoming environment for Syrian refugees and speak out when others— including community, religious, and political leaders—label them with hateful or xenophobic invective, or conflate them with terrorists, particularly given that many Syrian refugees are themselves victims of terror. (2015 Plenum)

Haiti

The JCPA believes that: The governments and people of the United States and Israel are to be commended for the Herculean humanitarian efforts undertaken by them in the weeks following the earthquake in Haiti January 2010; much more remains to be done. Governmental and non-governmental efforts to provide humanitarian aid to Haiti must continue for many years to come. The United States government should commit to engagement in Haiti for the long term and, in particular, should engage in efforts to establish the infrastructure and conditions necessary to allow the Haitians to lift themselves from what has been a long history of deprivation, poverty, and injustice. All efforts to provide humanitarian assistance and to establish an infrastructure should be provided in consultation and collaboration with the Haitian government and NGOs. Including through technical assistance on seismic standards and other areas which would reduce the impact of such natural disasters; The United States should reduce barriers to re-unification of Haitians residing lawfully in the United States with their immediate family members still residing in Haiti. Among other things, Congress should loosen the immigration quotas on Haitians with family members residing lawfully in the United States; The United States government should engage in discussions with the Haitian government for the purpose of increasing the number and speed of adoptions of Haitian orphans by families in the United States; The "shout test" for Haitians should be replaced. Haitian boat people intercepted by the U.S. Coast Guard or Navy should be asked, in Creole, whether they have been subjected to persecution in Haiti or otherwise fear persecution if repatriated to Haiti. The U.S. should then thoroughly investigate the situation of those who answer in the affirmative to determine whether they should be granted asylum in the U.S.

The community relations field should: Promote efforts by Jewish organizations to directly provide humanitarian aid to Haiti and to raise funds for Haitian relief efforts; Participate in interfaith efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to Haiti; Increase awareness, both within the Jewish and general communities, of the vigorous and effective relief efforts undertaken in Haiti by the Israeli government and Israeli and American Jewish NGOs; Advocate for a loosening of U.S. restrictions on Haitian immigration that may present a barrier to reunifying persons of Haitian descent lawfully residing in the United States with their immediate family members still living in Haiti; Advocate for an increase in the number of Haitian government-approved adoptions of Haitian orphans by American families and for a reduction in the time required to consummate such adoptions; Advocate for replacement of the "shout test" by a procedure by which U.S. Coast Guard and Naval personnel inquire of each Haitian interdicted on the high seas, in Creole, whether he or she has been subjected to persecution, or otherwise fears persecution if repatriated to Haiti, with proper follow-up to determine whether those answering in the affirmative qualify for asylum. (2010 Plenum)

Tibet
The JCPA insists that China desist in its efforts to smother Tibetan culture and restore the rights of that people to their distinct culture, religion, and way of life (JPP 1994-1995); encourages formation of coalitions whenever possible to request that the U.S. place the issue of Tibet and protection of religious freedom on the agenda of discussion between the U.S. and China; raise the Tibet issue at appropriate international fora; and encourage Americans to meet with the Dalai Lama and other Tibetan leaders. (1990)

Europe
Together with allies in Europe, develop programs to end the xenophobia and discrimination directed at guest workers and others. (JPP 1994-1995)