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National Council of Jewish Women

MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

PRINCIPLE 1

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

PRINCIPLE 2

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

PRINCIPLE 3

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

PRINCIPLE 4

All individuals have the right to live in a world at peace.

PRINCIPLE 5

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

PRINCIPLE 6

Discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, ethnicity, religion, age, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity must be eliminated.

PRINCIPLE 7

Equal rights and equal opportunities for women must be guaranteed.

PRINCIPLE 8

The continuity of the Jewish people must be assured from generation to generation through Jewish education, culture, values, and respect among all streams of Judaism.

PRINCIPLE 9

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

PRINCIPLE 10

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

PRINCIPLE 11

Human services must be coordinated, comprehensive, accessible, and sufficiently funded.

PRINCIPLE 12

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

PRINCIPLE 13

The protection and preservation of the environment are vital to a sustainable future.

PRINCIPLE 14

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

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

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

I. ADVANCE THE WELL-BEING AND STATUS OF WOMEN

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- I.1 Laws, policies, programs, and services that protect every woman from all forms of abuse, exploitation, harassment, and violence.
- I.2 Comprehensive, quality services for women's health supported by equitable and sufficient research and funding.
- I.3 Comprehensive, confidential, accessible family planning and reproductive health services, regardless of age or ability to pay.
- I.4 Employment laws, policies, and practices that provide equal pay and benefits for work of comparable worth and equal opportunities for advancement.
- I.5 Representation, participation, and involvement of women in all aspects of the democratic process.
- I.6 Laws, policies, and practices that improve the economic status of women.

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

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- II.1 Laws, policies, programs, and services that protect every child from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.
- II.2 Environmental laws, policies, and programs that promote the health of children and families.
- II.3 Quality public education for all, utilizing public funds for public schools only.
- II.4 Comprehensive services and policies that enable all children to succeed in school.
- II.5 Comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate sexuality education in public schools.
- II.6 Quality, comprehensive child care, early childhood programs, and school-age programs that are affordable and accessible for all.
- II.7 Laws, policies, and employment practices that allow workers to meet both family and work responsibilities.

- II.8 Laws, policies, and programs that provide a level of services and income that meet basic human needs while encouraging self-sufficiency.
- II.9 Equitable fiscal and tax policies that ensure sufficient revenues for basic human needs and economic security.
- II.10 Quality, comprehensive, confidential, nondiscriminatory healthcare coverage and services, including mental health, that are affordable and accessible for all.
- II.11 Laws, policies, programs, and services that promote wellness.
- II.12 Research and funding for advances in medicine.
- II.13 Laws, policies, programs, and services that address the needs of older adults and protect them from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence.
- II.14 Laws, policies, and programs to restrict and regulate firearms and prevent gun violence.
- II.15 Consumer protection laws that promote and enhance public health and welfare.

III. ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF JEWISH LIFE:

We endorse and resolve to work for:

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

IV. ENSURE AND ADVANCE INDIVIDUAL AND CIVIL RIGHTS:

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- IV.1 The enactment and enforcement of laws and regulations that protect civil rights and individual liberties for all.
- IV.2 The protection of every female's right to reproductive choices, including safe and legal abortion, medically accurate information, access to contraception, and the elimination of obstacles that limit reproductive freedom.

- IV.3 The protection of every individual's right to privacy.
- IV.4 Laws and policies that provide equal rights for same-sex couples.
- IV.5 The abolition of the death penalty.
- IV.6 The recognition and protection of children by the legal system and the provision for their unique needs.
- IV.7 The prevention and elimination of censorship of educational resources and the promotion of historically factual and scientifically accepted public information.
- IV.8 Equal opportunity for all in the public and private sectors through programs such as affirmative action.
- IV.9 Comprehensive, humane, and equitable immigration and naturalization laws, policies, and practices that facilitate and expedite legal status for more individuals.
- IV.10 The historically accurate study of the Holocaust and other acts of genocide as part of the regular curriculum in all schools.
- IV.11 The elimination of genocide.
- IV.12 Election laws, policies, and practices that ensure easy and equitable access to the electoral process and that every vote counts and can be verified.
- IV.13 The elimination of human trafficking.

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

We endorse and resolve to work for:

- V.1 Policies and programs that promote peaceful co-existence within Israel and between Israel and its neighbors.
- V.2 Diplomatic, economic, and military assistance to Israel by the United States.
- V.3 Recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
- V.4 Efforts that counter attempts to delegitimize Israel.
- V.5 The empowerment of all women in Israel and the advancement of their status and rights.
- V.6 Policies, programs, and services that promote the well-being of all children in Israel.
- V.7 Policies and programs in Israel that promote pluralism, inclusion, and equality for all its people.