



*The International Association of  
Conservative / Masorti Rabbis,  
established 1901*

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TO: RA Colleagues

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FROM: Jay M. Kornsgold, Resolutions Committee Chair  
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Each year at the convention the Rabbinical Assembly passes a number of resolutions on pressing matters impacting the countries and regions where we live, the State of Israel and the future of our shared world. Passing the resolutions is only a first step. The important work is what follows when we follow up in our congregations, schools and communities. To assist you in that critical work, we have prepared follow up items to accompany our resolutions.

We have included a selected list of addresses and fax numbers for government officials at the end of this memo. Please note that when writing to your senator and representative, the address is:

Honorable (Your Senator)	Honorable (Your Representative)
United States Senate	United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510	Washington, D.C 20515

Mail sent to Congress is screened and may take several weeks to arrive. To expedite your correspondence you might want to fax your letter instead, so we have included selected fax numbers for House and Senate committees referenced. Fax numbers for your own representatives and senators may be found on [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov).

You may also write opinion pieces for your local print media and send copies to local radio and TV stations. We also urge you to send copies of all resolutions to your local CRC and Federation leadership.

For rabbis residing outside of the United States, please correspond with the appropriate governmental officials.

## **Resolution on Heksher Tzedek**

The resolution calls for members of the Rabbinical Assembly to continue to teach and present divrei Torah on Hekhsheer Tzedek as well as committing to financial support for this endeavor. Resources may be found at <http://magentzedek.org> and you may make donations through this website. Checks may be mailed for Hekhsheer Tzedek to the RA office.

## **Resolution on the Presbyterian Church (USA) Middle East Study Committee Report**

There are several resources on the interfaith section of the RA members' website which includes a document written by our colleague, Gil Rosenthal, executive director of the National Council of Synagogues which provides critical insight. There are also background materials available from the Jewish Council for Public Affairs of which the Conservative Movement is a member.

At the 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the resolution it passed on the MESC embraced a more thoughtful approach to Middle East peacemaking than originally written. The document passed modified the report and rejected the use of divestment and labeling Israeli policy as apartheid. This demonstrates a desire for broader understanding in the quest for peace. The revised and adopted MESC Report unambiguously recognizes Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation within secure and internationally recognized borders – as well as Israel's need to stem the flow of weapons into Gaza. The PCUSA only endorsed ostensibly positive parts of the Kairos Palestine document – written by a group of Palestinian Christians – and not other elements including a call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions.

The joint efforts of Jewish organizations, including the RA, with the majority of Presbyterians resulted in the amelioration of the most troublesome aspect of the Middle East Study Commission report. However, it is important to continue to cultivate positive relationships with Presbyterian leaders (as well as those of other mainline Protestant denominations) as these kinds of challenges are very likely to arise again in the near term.

If you have any questions on the resolution, or on further advocacy regarding the Presbyterian Church (USA) Middle East Study Committee Report, please be in contact with our Director of Israel Policy and Advocacy, [Stuart Weinblatt](#) or Director of Public Policy, [Jack Moline](#).

## **Resolution on Civil Discourse**

In this age of instant communication, much of it faceless, we face the trap of speaking or writing without thinking through the impact or implications of our statements. The principle of *כבוד הבריות* demands that we treat each other respectfully whether we are communicating between colleagues (whether it be a one-on-one conversation or on RAVNET), with friends, with congregants or students; adversaries and those with whom we disagree on a certain issue. This resolution reminds us that speech can hurt others.

## **Resolution on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Birth of Theodore Herzl**

The resolution asks for our institutions to offer programs during the upcoming year on Theodor Herzl and his vision of Zionism. These programs can be done through the curricula of our schools, adult learning, community lectures and other forums. To fulfill this vision, during the upcoming year, we need to redouble our efforts to enroll our constituents as members of MERCAZ. As the movement that embraced Zionism from its inception, MERCAZ allows Conservative Judaism to strengthen its ties with Israel and its influence over policies of religious pluralism. Our goal should be for 100% of our constituents to join MERCAZ and show a vital and strong Conservative Zionism presence. The stronger MERCAZ representation sitting around the table of the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Organization, the more funding we can procure for programs of the Masorti Movement both in Israel and other countries of the Diaspora.

## **Resolution on Gilad Shalit**

It has been four years since Sgt. Shalit was captured by Hamas. It is imperative that he be released immediately. According to the Geneva Convention, the Red Cross is supposed to have access to prisoners of war. There was a renewed request that the Red Cross be permitted to visit him which was denied by Hamas on June 11, 2010. We ask our colleagues and their constituents to send this resolution to President Barack Obama, Vice President Joseph Biden, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sen. John Kerry, chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Rep. Howard Berman, chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee emphasizing the importance of releasing Gilad Shalit immediately and insisting that as a first step, the International Red Cross be permitted to visit him and assure that Hamas is treating him according to the conventions of international law. For those rabbis residing outside of the United States, please send the resolution to the appropriate governmental officials in your country.

We also ask that you forward this resolution to your local Israeli Consul and any members of the Knesset who visit your community. For those of you involved in your local ministeria, bring this resolution to the ministerial association and ask it to adopt the resolution as its own statement.

Please note that on June 29, 2010, the United States Senate passed a resolution (S.Res.571) resolution in the United States Senate (S.Res.571) authored by Senators Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and George Voinovich (R-OH) calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Gilad Shalit. The resolution was co-sponsored by Senators Joseph Lieberman (I-CT), Charles Schumer (D-NY), Carl Levin (D-MI), Bob Casey (D-PA), Jon Kyl (R-AZ), and David Vitter (R-LA).

You can download the prayer for Gilad Shalit's release at <http://www.shefanetwork.org/shalitprayer.pdf>

## **Resolution Supporting Israel in the Peace Process**

This resolution asks our members to support the decisions made by the democratically elected government of Israel in peace negotiations. While these decisions rest solely in the hands of the Israeli government, as Jews who are committed to the State of Israel, those living in the Diaspora also have a voice. Diaspora Jews should voice their concerns directly to the Israeli Ambassador in their country and other Israeli officials.

Many of our rabbis are involved with groups that have an international presence and we ask you to make your voice heard in those forums to insure these groups respect the agreements negotiated by the government of Israel with its neighbors.

## **Resolution on Iran**

Send copies to President Barack Obama; Vice President Joseph Biden; US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton; US Secretary of Defense Robert Gates; US Secretary of the Treasury, Timothy Geithner; US Secretary of Commerce, Gary Locke; United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Susan Rice; UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon; Members of the House Foreign Affairs and Senate Foreign Relations Committees whose names appear below (please note on June 24, 2010, both the House and Senate passed the **Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010**, for full text go to [www.thomas.gov](http://www.thomas.gov) and use # HR 2194) , and your own representatives and senators, especially please note if they sit on either of these committees and thank them for their support of this crucial piece of legislation. Please send resolution to your local and state governments and state pension fund directors reminding them of the Federal legislation just passed. Urge companies including financial institutions doing business with Iran to divest their holdings. This includes both personal assets of your congregants and students as well as the assets of your institutions. For rabbis not in the United States, send copies to your president or prime minister, UN ambassador, Israeli ambassador to your country, local officials and companies that do business with Iran.

## **Resolution on Attempts to Delegitimize Israel**

Send this resolution to President Barack Obama, Vice President, Joseph Biden; Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. Send resolution to your senators and representatives and the Israel Consul General for your area. Contact universities in your communities and those institutions of which you are an alum to make sure these institutions welcome Israeli scholars and academics. Bring this resolution to your local ministerial association and ask them to adopt a similar resolution in their own synods, dioceses or adjudicatory bodies and especially if these denominations have sister communities outside of the United States. Send to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon; United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Susan Rice and for those residing outside the United States your Ambassador to the United Nations. We also ask that you speak about this crucial issue on the High Holy Days.

## **Resolution on Religious Pluralism in Israel**

We ask colleagues to devote a sermon during the upcoming High Holy Day season on this crucial issue (for resources see [www.masorti.org](http://www.masorti.org)). Please send copies of your drashot to the Rabbinical Assembly office. Bring this resolution to your Federation director and president making sure they

know that Jerry Silverman, the CEO of the Jewish Federations of North America has been a strongly ally on this issue. Send this resolution to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, President Shimon Peres, the Israel Ambassador to your country, your local consul general and any members of the Knesset with whom you have a personal relationship or who visit your community.

### **United States Government Officials**

United States Permanent Representative to the  
United Nations  
Dr. Susan Rice  
United States Mission to the United Nations 140  
East 45th Street New York, N.Y. 10017  
Fax: 212-415-4053

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Vice President Joseph Biden Jr.  
The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20501

Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Secretary of the Treasury Timothy Geithner  
U.S. Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20220

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon  
UN Headquarters  
First Avenue at 46th Street  
New York, NY 10017

Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)  
Speaker of the House  
Fax: 202-225-4965

Steny Hoyer (D- MD)  
House Majority Leader  
Fax: 202-225-4131

John A. Boehner (R- OH)  
House Minority Leader  
Fax: 202-225-0562

**United States House Foreign Affairs Committee**  
Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515  
Fax: 202-225-2035 (Democrats), 202-225-7269 (Republicans)

**Democrats**

Howard Berman (D-CA)  
Committee Chair  
Fax: 202-225-3196  
Gary Ackerman (D- NY)  
Eni Faleomavaega (D- AS)  
Donald Payne (D- NJ)  
Brad Sherman (D- CA)  
Robert Wexler (D- FL)  
Eliot Engel (D- NY)  
William Delahunt (D- MA)  
Gregory Meeks (D- NY)  
Diane Watson (D- CA)  
Adam Smith (D- WA)  
Russ Carnahan (D- MO)  
Albio Sires (D- NJ)  
Gerry Connolly (D- VA)  
Mike McMahon (D- NY)  
John Tanner (D- TN)  
Gene Green (D- TX)  
Sheila Jackson Lee (D- TX)  
Barbara Lee (D- CA)  
Shelley Berkley (D- NV)  
Joseph Crowley (D- NY)  
Mike Ross (D- AR)  
Brad Miller (D- NC)  
David Scott (D- GA)

Jim Costa (D- CA)  
Keith Ellison (D- MN)  
Gabrielle Giffords (D- AZ)  
Ron Klein (D- FL)

**Republicans**

Ileana Ros- Lehtinen (R- FL)  
Ranking Member  
Fax: 202-225-5620  
Christopher Smith (R- NJ)  
Dan Burton (R- IN)  
Elton Gallegly (R- CA)  
Dana Rohrabacher (R- CA)  
Donald Manzullo (R- IL)  
Ed Royce (R- CA)  
Ron Paul (R- TX)  
Jeff Flake (R- AZ)  
Mike Pence (R- IN)  
Joe Wilson (R- SC)  
John Boozman (R- AR)  
J. Gresham Barret (R- SC)  
Connie Mack IV (R- FL)  
Jeff Fortenberry (R- NE)  
Michael McCaul (R- TX)  
Ted Poe (R- TX)  
Bob Inglis (R- SC)  
Gus Bilirakis (R- FL)

**United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510  
Fax: 202-228-3612 (Democrats), 202-224-0836 (Republicans)

**Democrat**

John F. Kerry (D- MA)  
Committee Chair  
Fax:202-224-8525  
Christopher J. Dodd (D- CT)  
Russell D. Feingold (D- WI)  
Barbara Boxer (D- CA)  
Robert Menendez (D- NJ)  
Benjamin L. Cardin (D- MD)  
Robert P. Casey (D- PA)  
Jim Webb (D- VA)  
Ted Kaufman (D- DE)  
Kristen Gillibrand (D- NY)  
Jeanne Shaheen (D- NH)

**Republican**

Richard G. Lugar (R- IN)  
Ranking Member  
Fax:202-228-0360  
Bob Corker (R- TN)  
Johnny Isakson (R- GA)  
Jim Risch (R- ID)  
Jim DeMint (SC)  
John Barrasso (R- WY)  
Roger Wicker (R- MS)

**Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu**

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