

RESOLUTION ON VIOLENCE AND GUN CONTROL

Whereas Judaism holds that the sanctity of human life and well being is a supreme value;

Whereas crime and violence must be brought under control within the framework of a free and moral society, operating under the rule of law;

Whereas violent behavior is destructive of persons and property, is on the increase at an alarming rate, and is fanned by its extensive and gratuitous portrayal in the media;

Whereas children with guns, and children as the victims of guns and other weapons are another manifestation of violence,

Be it resolved that the Rabbinical Assembly should encourage its members to:

Advocate programs which reduce the level of glorified or accepted violence in the media;

Work to keep advertisements during children's programs violence-free;

Advocate programs which encourage peaceful resolution of conflicts;

Advocate strict enforcement of existing laws to limit further access to illegal firearms;

Advocate stronger gun control laws and a ban on assault weapons;

Enter into coalitions with other groups, agencies or organizations to work together for the elimination or reduction of violence;

Utilize the resources of all the arms of our movement to educate ourselves and our members through programs in our schools, youth groups and adult education about crime and violence;

Promote the formation and governmental funding for local programs to aid all people who are survivors of violence and to prevent future violence, and to rehabilitate perpetrators of violence.

Passed by the Rabbinical Assembly Convention Plenum May 1995