



איגוד הרבנים ד'אמריקא RABBINICAL ALLIANCE OF AMERICA

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Convocation Resolutions Chai Elul 5779 – September 18, 2019

Presented by Rabbi Yehoshua S. Hecht

#1) MANDATE A MOMENT OF SILENCE IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

We call upon the Federal Government in Washington D.C. to mandate a Moment of Silence to be held at the commencement of each new school day -- thus allowing for teachers and students to silently reflect on the Creator and their faith in a Higher Being. This will directly help to guide our citizens to lead a more exemplary life resulting in respect and caring for others; knowing that there is an “Eye that Sees and an Ear that Hears” our deeds and words. A mandated Moment of Silence will help to curb the mass shootings and acts of violence plaguing America and will serve all people, regardless of faith or creed, to reflect on the universal commitment as Human Beings, to conduct ourselves accordingly.

As Rabbis and leaders of our communities we demand the implementation of a Moment of Silence to be observed at all of our public educational institutions beginning with Elementary schools through University and College level, and thus help secure the welfare of our children and young adults.

#2) A CALL TO JEWISH FEDERATIONS & PHILANTHROPHIC FOUNDATIONS TO INCREASE THEIR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF JEWISH DAY & HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION

The Rabbinical Alliance of America – Igud HaRabbonim – calls on JEWISH FEDERATIONS across the country to increase their budgetary support for YESHIVA DAY SCHOOL education by a minimum of 50% immediately for fiscal year 2020/21 and 100% in the fiscal year 2021/22.

At present the UJA of New York has merely \$51 million in matching funds to support day schools and yeshivas that embrace the organization’s restrictive challenge criteria and only 21 schools are involved. This in light of the fact that in 2018 over 120,120 students were enrolled in these schools in the NYC metro area. Less than 8% of local NYC area students enrolled in a Yeshivah school benefit from New York City’s largest Jewish charitable fundraising organization. This is both untenable and a painful disconnect from the legitimate and pressing needs of the increasingly observant Jewish Community.

#3) SUPPORT OF THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF RABBINATE OF ISRAEL

The Rabbinical Alliance of America – Igud HaRabbonin hereby reiterates wide-ranging support of the institution and office of the Chief Rabbinate of Israel as it is presently headed by the venerable Rav Harashi HaGaon Rav Dovid Lau and the venerable Rishon LeTzion HaGaon Chacham Yitzchak Yosef; may they prosper and lead Israel and the Jewish people in good health and success.



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The stated opposition to the Chief Rabbinate of Israel by various deviationist streams reflects an unrestrained and pronounced aberration from classical Judaism and Halacha -- promoted under the guise of civil liberty and personal choice. Jews identify as Jews and support Israel due to love of tradition and respect for their religious heritage. Undermining that tradition will devastate Jewish identity and support for Jewish causes.

It is of the most urgent and immediate necessity that the Chief Rabbinate remain the exclusive authority of all matters pertaining to Giyur (conversion) and matters pertaining to religious identity and personal status as they are indicated and codified in the Code of Jewish Law – Halacha & Shulchan Aruch.

The time hallowed and established heritage and customs of our people (Halacha) serves to unite and preserve the unity and integrity of the Jewish people of all backgrounds and levels of observance. In fact, these standards continue to unite the world Jewish community and keep at bay assimilation and intermarriage.

#4) THE LEGITIMATE AND AUTHENTIC VOICE OF AMERICAN JEWRY

The Rabbinical Alliance of America founded in 1942 recognizes the living and vibrant Jewish present, past and future. We are no longer in need of the organizational voices of the past as they do not echo the reality of the present. Groups such as the ADL, AJC, WJC etc. do not reflect Jewish concerns or its values in an accurate way. Their orientation and their self-appointed leadership are often misinformed, misdirected and alarmingly becoming more of a hazard and liability for the Jewish people and their future here in America and on the world stage.

We must show appreciation and support for American values – spiritual values – and support for President Trump and the Administration which supports Israel and the Jewish people and their concerns. It's the RAA which is the authentic and responsible voice of the Rabbinate addressing the Jewish community's concerns. Matters that pertain or touch upon the SEVEN UNIVERSAL LAWS OF NOAH are our guide in the issuing of any and all public statements and positions.

We believe in, hope for and pray for the complete and imminent redemption by our righteous Mashiach together with the restoration of the third and eternal holy Temple in Jerusalem, may it be very soon, Amen.

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