

## Resolution of the Women of Reform Judaism National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods

25th Biennial Assembly, 1965

### Homosexuality

The Bible treats homosexuality as an "abomination" (cf. Lev. 18:22, 20:13) and penalties for its practice were severe. Today, however, enlightened men understand that homosexuality may be a symptom of psychiatric disturbance which requires sympathetic understanding and psychiatric evaluation.

We, therefore, deplore the tendency on the part of community authorities to harass homosexuals. We associate ourselves with those religious leaders and legal experts who urge revisions in the criminal code as it relates to homosexuality, especially when it exists between consenting adults. While the young

or nonconsenting person must be protected from the advances of disturbed individuals, the aberrations of such individuals must be considered as expressions of possible illness rather than of criminality. We further urge that all available resources of society be brought to bear on the alleviation of this problem.

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According to Rabbi Yoel Kahn, in a 1989 article "Judaism and Homosexuality: The Traditionalist/Progressive Debate", this resolution was passed, but never implemented, because the UAHC never passed the resolution on which this was based at its own 1965 Biennial convention. (Note 10, p.78)