

Resolution Affirming NFTY CWR Stance on Preventing Sexual Violence Presented to the NFTY-CWR General Board at Spring Conclave 5779

Background: At NFTY Mechina 2017 Asefah, the general board, comprised of regional board and voting delegates, passed a resolution reaffirming NFTY's stance against sexual violence. Before Mechina 2017 NFTY has never taken an official stance on the issue of sexual violence, but made a statement, because of the prevalent media attention on the issue. This resolution was unanimously passed at Mechina. At NFTY Mechina 2018, the general board ratified this legislation.

WHEREAS according to the US National Sexual Violence Resource Center, one in four girls (24.7%) and one in six boys (16%) are sexually abused before they reach the age of 18, and;

WHEREAS according to the United States Department of Justice, an estimated 23% of reported cases of child sexual abuse are perpetrated by minors, and;

WHEREAS the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) has passed three resolutions on sexual violence, including: Resolution on Violence Against Women (1990), Resolution on Domestic Violence (1990), and Resolution on Women's Health (1993), and;

WHEREAS the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) has passed three resolutions on sexual violence, including: Resolution on Violence Against Women (1990), Resolution on Domestic Violence (1990), and Resolution on Women's Health (1993), and;

WHEREAS the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) has created their own stance on this issue by passing the Resolution on Violence Against Women in 1991, and;

WHEREAS the Women of Reform Judaism (WRJ) has created their own stance on this issue by passing the WRJ Resolution on Crimes Against Women in 1991, and;

WHEREAS the obligation to repair the world, tikkun olam, is one of NFTY's Thirteen Principles and is mentioned in NFTY's mission statement, and;

WHEREAS another of NFTY's Thirteen Principles is tzedek, the obligation to work for justice for all, and;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that CWR takes a firm stance against any form of sexual violence and that we are committed to bringing awareness to sexual violence, and;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CWR is committed to helping and protecting any person from sexual violence and providing support to any survivor, and;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CWR will incorporate programming to bring awareness to the issue of sexual violence so that we can educate ourselves and confront the issue, and;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CWR will make efforts to reform the practices in our own community as we seek to change the world around us and;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CWR formally recognizes and pledges to take action and educate about sexual violence during National Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April, and;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CWR commits itself to create cultural changes in its own communities around the issue of sexual violence by:

I. Actively working to break down pre-existing stigmas regarding sexual violence and abuse through conversation and education

II. Working to eliminate systems or games that encourage objectification in a sexual context,

III. Having all graduating seniors sign NFTY's Senior Pledge at Gesher Kallah in order to uphold these values once they leave the NFTY and NFTY CWR communities and;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CWR is committed to fighting against and bring awareness to sexual violence in our communities, through our TYGs and Subregions, and;

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that CWR recognized the definition of consent defined by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center: "When someone agrees, gives permission, or says 'yes' to sexual activity with other persons. Consent is always freely given and all people in a sexual situation must feel that they are able to say 'yes' or 'no' or stop the sexual activity at any point," and;

Respectfully Submitted,

*Nina Heller, NFTY-CWR Social Action Vice President 5778-5779

*Catherine Orange, BSTY President 5778-5779

Respectfully Co-signed,

Sam Duman, CWR President 5778-5779

Ariana Zwern, CWR Programming Vice President 5778-5779

Sydney Gee, CWR Religious and Cultural Vice President 5778-5779

Brandon Folb, CWR Membership Vice President 5778-5779

Leah Atkins, CWR Communications Vice President 5778-5779

Jacob Cohen, CWR Fundraising and Merchandising Vice President 5778-5779