



RESOLUTION CONCERNING SAME-SEX MARRIAGES

Whereas NFTY has a very large population of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and questioning participants and

Whereas same-sex marriage is a controversial issue in both the greater Jewish Community and the greater American Society and

Whereas NFTY has been known to take stands on issues pertinent to both the greater Jewish Community and the greater American Society and

Whereas many non-Jews often believe that the greater Jewish Community condemns homosexuals and

Whereas the CCAR has stated in the past that the “relationship of a Jewish, same-gender couple is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual” and

Whereas the US Supreme Court has long recognized that “Marriage is one of the ‘basic civil rights of man’ fundamental to our very existence and survival” and is “one of the vital personal rights essential to the orderly pursuit of happiness by free men” (Loving v. Virginia, 1967) and

Whereas opposite-sex couples receive many legal and financial benefits (e.g. tax benefits, joint parenthood, divorce, and domestic violence protections, etc) from their decision to marry which same-sex couples often have a very difficult time securing and

Whereas there is only one state and one Canadian Province which will currently grant same-sex couple the same legal and financial status as an opposite-sex couple,

Therefore Let it be resolved that NFTY strongly supports the right of two people of the same sex to wed or the equivalent thereof one another and

Let it further be resolved that NFTY strongly supports legislation on any level of government which facilitates or grants for the first time the right of same-sex couples as are received by opposite-sex couples and

Let it further be resolved that NFTY believes the struggle for same-sex marriage or the equivalent thereof should stop nothing short of equal rights for same-sex couples as are received by opposite-sex couples and

Let it further be resolved that the issue at hand is one at multiple levels of government(local, state and federal) and can therefore be applied to social action programming and awareness at various levels of NFTY (local youth group, regional youth groups, and North American) and

Let it further be resolved that all NFTY regions and participants are strongly encouraged to write letters to their local, state, and federal government representatives in support or in opposition to legislation that has been passed or is to be passed and

Let it further be resolved that all NFTY regions and participants are strongly encouraged to write letters to the rabbinic staff at their temple, in their region or at a North American level in support or in opposition to the rabbi’s personal stance on the issue and





Let it further be resolved that NFTY reaffirms an amendment passed on a similar topic and

Let it further be resolved that NFTY's position on same-sex marriages be the same where transgender marriage is concerned and

Let it further be resolved that NFTY shows its respect and support to its gay, lesbian, and bisexual participants.

Respectfully Submitted,
Max Chaiken
NFTY- GER RCVP 2003-2004

Resolved by the NFTY General Board at Mechina 2003