

## The Draft - 1971

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In previous General Assemblies of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, its delegates as well as the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism of which the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods is a member, have adopted resolutions to reform the Selective Service System of the United States. These resolutions called for enlarged recognition of the rights of conscientious objection to war and recognition of selective, conscientious objection to a particular war, both of which are in accordance with Talmudic tradition.

Despite changes in the Selective Service System of the United States since the last Biennial Convention, it is still a system of grave and serious inequities.

Therefore, the National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods in convention assembled in Los Angeles, California, in November 1971 requests the President and Congress of the United States to:

1. Intensify the study and widespread citizen discussion of both greater equity in the Selective Service Act and the pros and cons of an all volunteer Armed Force;
2. Meanwhile, change the Selective Service Act into stand-by legislation under which the induction of men into the Armed Forces shall occur only when the United States Congress states one or more of the following:
  1. A declaration of war;
  2. That a state of war exists;
  3. That a national emergency exists which necessitates selective induction.
3. Expand the recognition of conscientious objection to war, including sincere conscientious objection to a particular war;
4. Further develop meaningful compulsory, civilian alternatives to military service for those whose conscience will not allow induction even as a non-combatant within the military forces.
5. Develop nationwide standards for local Draft Boards that shall make them:
  1. More reflective of the age, ethnic, economic and social community which they serve;
  2. Have more uniform standards of recognition of conscientious objectors to war and valid alternative civilian services.