

Negative Stereotyping - 1987

Issue

To be aware that Jewish American Princess (JAP)—“jokes,” far from being harmless humor, are forms of negative stereotyping and prejudice which demean Jewish women. To recognize that the word “JAP” is often used as a code word for anti-Semitism.

Background

There is a growing use of the negative stereotype, Jewish American Princess (JAP) materialistic, self-indulgent, greedy—in “jokes;” in commercial items such as greeting cards, jewelry and T-shirts, etc.; and in graffiti and verbal attacks on women on college campuses. This stereotyping, which began as an object of sexist humor, has now become a tool of the anti-Semite.

Resolution

The National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods urges its affiliates to:

- 1) Discontinue the sale of “JAP” items in their Judaica shops and be sensitive to the image and quality of their entire stock,
- 2) Educate their congregations and communities that the “JAP” stereotype is anti-woman and anti-Semitic and its use should be discontinued, and
- 3) Work to raise the consciousness of their members, their congregation and their community to the subtleties of discrimination in our everyday lives.