

Our Story:

JCPA's Historical Narrative and Timeline



THE POWER OF THE NETWORK

Celebrating Jewish Unity and Advocacy

SINCE 1944, JCPA has been the organized Jewish community's primary convener and consensus-builder, community relations powerhouse, and policy advocate. JCPA is a network of 125 Jewish Community Relations Councils (JCRCs) and 16 Jewish national agencies, and the only body that represents the four denominations of religious Judaism. Together, we and our network advocate for a just and pluralistic society, global human rights, and Israel's quest for peace and security.

CONSENSUS-BUILDER. JCPA convenes the national network to build consensus on important policy issues, so that we can present a unified front when engaging with policymakers and other diverse communities. We believe, and our successes throughout our history demonstrate, that when the Jewish community comes together, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

POWERFUL INTERGROUP PARTNER. Since its inception, JCPA has given meaning, context, and power to the concept of "community relations." Community relations is the strategy we use to achieve our network's goals by building relationships with diverse racial, ethnic, and faith leaders, as well as public officials and other nonprofits. Through constant nurturing over the years, we have grown these relationships into powerful partnerships, enabling us to work in common cause and build bridges that bring our communities together. Community relations is also a source of grassroots activism, enabling local Jewish communities to mobilize in partnership with other faith and minority communities on issues of common concern.

TRUSTED VOICE WITH POLICYMAKERS. JCPA was founded on the belief that to secure our people's future, the Jewish community must actively engage in American public life. By giving voice to Jewish values of fairness and justice, we could help make society better for everyone, including Jews. To this end, JCPA, a trusted voice among policymakers, advocates for the network's consensus policy positions and educates the public.

Over the decades, JCPA's work has strengthened the Jewish community while helping to build a more just society. As we look to the future and the ever-mounting challenges we face, such as polarization inside and outside the Jewish community, resurgent populism and xenophobia, and growing antisemitism, it is important to reflect on all that we have achieved over the decades. We can use our past experience as a roadmap to guide us through future challenges.

OUR STORY

In 1944, when antisemitism was rampant and the dark days of the Holocaust threatened the very existence of the Jewish people, a group of Jewish leaders created the National Community Relations Advisory Council (renamed the Jewish Council for Public Affairs in 1997) as an umbrella body of the community relations field. The objective of this new group would be to secure American Jews' future by actively engaging in American public life, working in common cause with other communities, and giving voice to Jewish values of fairness and justice.

Together, these four national Jewish agencies—the American Jewish Congress, American Jewish Committee, Jewish Labor Committee, and Anti-Defamation League of *B'nai B'rith*—and 14 JCRCs were joined together at the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds' General Assembly to form what would become a thriving network that continues to grow. Today, JCPA represents 125 JCRCs and 16 national Jewish agencies, including the four denominations of religious Judaism.

Throughout its history, JCPA has been at the forefront of progress in the United States. Its achievements include advancing the civil rights movement; shifting public opinion on racism, homophobia, and antisemitism; freeing Soviet Jewry; fighting genocide and other atrocities; and countering efforts to delegitimize Israel while maintaining public support for the Jewish State. These successes are not just dates on a calendar. Each triumph was the result of years—even decades—of continuous consensus- and coalition-building, public education, advocacy, and mass mobilization.



In 1944,
there were
14 community
relations councils.
By 1964, there
were 75.
Today, there
are 125.

“Opposition to all forms of discrimination or segregation based on race, religion, color or national origin is inherent in our religious heritage and the prophetic tradition and is a cardinal tenet of Jewish community relations.”

– Joint Program Plan, 1955

A JUST AND PLURALISTIC SOCIETY



Advancing Civil Rights and Civil Liberties for All People

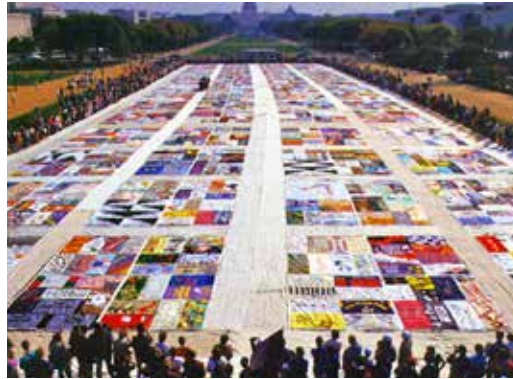
From the beginning, JCPA has prioritized the advancement of civil rights for all Americans, working extensively on desegregation, voting rights, and ending discrimination in housing, education, and employment. JCPA's anti-discrimination work evolved over the decades, expanding to encompass not just racial and religious discrimination, but also that based on gender, gender identity, and sexual orientation.

Through educational, legal, and legislative campaigns with partners in the Black community, JCPA and its member agencies helped achieve many of the landmark victories of the Civil Rights Movement. During the 1950s and 60s, JCPA worked extensively on desegregating schools and housing, building public support and pressure for busing, affirmative action, and the elimination of "redlining," a discriminatory financial practice that kept communities of color locked in poverty.

With the conviction that the struggle for civil rights could be won only through coalition, JCPA and the NAACP joined together in 1950 to cofound the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights as a clearinghouse and coordinating body for all civil rights lobbying—modeled after JCPA, which also housed and staffed the Leadership Conference in its early years. Through this coalition, JCPA fought hard for—and helped win—critical civil rights legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation in public accommodations and employment, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968, which prohibits discriminatory practices such as redlining.

Top left: From the left: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Cleveland Robinson (labor organizer), Rabbi Joachim Prinz (American Jewish Congress), Joseph L. Rauh (lawyer), Whitney Young (National Urban League), Roy Wilkins (NAACP), Walter Reuther (United Auto Workers), A. Philip Randolph (Negro American Labor Council), and Arnold Aronson (JCPA) at the March on Washington, 1963.

Top right: Martin Luther King, Jr. and civil rights leaders, including JCPA's Arnold Aronson and Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith's Benjamin Epstein, with Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, 1963.



Left: NAACP President Derrick Johnson with JCPA Leaders, including JCPA President David Bernstein, Senior Vice President Melanie Roth Gorelick, Policy Committee Co-Chair Magda Schaler-Haynes, Criminal Justice Task Force Co-Chairs Bruce Turnbull and Renny Wolfson, IAN Executive Geri Palast, and advisor Jim Johnson, 2017.

Right: The AIDS Memorial Quilt, 1987.

With many of the key legislative and legal battles won, beginning in the late 1960s, JCPA shifted its focus to eliminating racial discrimination across health care, housing, food insecurity, and wealth accumulation. Though legally prohibited, discrimination persists throughout society. JCPA remains steadfast in its commitment to fighting discrimination today.

Protecting the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most important civil rights victories, remains a priority as more states have moved to suppress voting in recent years. A 2013 Supreme Court decision struck down a key enforcement measure of the Voting Rights Act, allowing states with a history of voter suppression to change voting laws with no federal oversight. In 2017, JCPA and its members passed a resolution to elevate this issue, calling on the Jewish community to oppose such measures and devote more time and resources to getting people out to vote.

In the latter half of the 20th century, JCPA added sexual orientation and gender identity to its nondiscrimination advocacy agenda, working to balance religious liberty with rights and protections for the LGBTQI+ community. In the 1980s, JCPA helped organized the Jewish and interfaith communities to address the growing AIDS epidemic and prevent discrimination based on HIV status. JCPA also built public support for the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in 2010. More recently, JCPA spoke out against the proposed ban on transgender people serving in the military.

By the late 1990s, JCPA and its partners were pushing for the passage of hate crimes legislation, winning victories like the 2009 Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which added gender, sexual

FOUNDING OF THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

In 1950, JCPA, the NAACP, and the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters (the first Black labor union) cofounded the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights. In the Leadership Conference’s early years, JCPA housed and staffed it, with JCPA’s Program Director serving as its second-in-command. JCPA remains an active member in the organization, now considered the premier civil rights coalition.

orientation, and disability as protected classes. Passing federal and state hate crimes laws as well as anti-discrimination legislation remain important goals of JCPA’s domestic agenda.

A strong advocate for equal rights for women, JCPA has long fought for reproductive rights, affordable family planning, equal pay, and protections against gender-based violence at home and abroad. JCPA lobbied for the 1994 Violence Against Women Act and is currently calling for its reauthorization. Despite numerous setbacks over the years, JCPA continues to push back against ongoing local, state, and federal efforts to chip away at reproductive rights and health services. In the courts, JCPA has filed joint amicus briefs in support of contraceptive coverage in employer-based insurance plans. In the legislature, JCPA has worked to defeat harmful measures that curtail legal abortion access and endanger women, such as the Hyde Amendment, the Global Gag Rule, and efforts to defund Planned Parenthood.

The Orthodox Union does not, as a matter of long-standing policy, join with JCPA in resolutions concerning reproductive choice, sexual orientation, or gender identity.



Top left: JCPA Criminal Justice Manager Roy Waterman addresses interfaith leaders during an advocacy day on bail reform in Columbus, organized by the Cleveland JCRC, 2018. Top right: Interfaith action on Capitol Hill, 2017.

Reforming the Criminal Justice System

Despite significant progress in advancing equality for all, racism and inequality in the United States persist, particularly in the criminal justice system. JCPA first came to this issue in 1968, when it passed a resolution endorsing the recommendations of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, which, among other things, called for a review and reform of law enforcement practices in Black neighborhoods to eliminate abuse, provide fair and effective mechanisms for addressing grievances, and end the “dual standard of law enforcement” that heavily policed Black communities but failed to protect them.

Shortly thereafter, in the 1970s, the U.S. prison population skyrocketed as a result of the War on Drugs, disproportionately impacting people of color and contributing to poverty, income inequality, and family instability. Recognizing this as a national crisis, JCPA passed numerous resolutions addressing various aspects of criminal justice reform. A 2015 resolution spurred JCPA to launch an initiative to reengage the Jewish community in civil rights work in partnership with Black and Latino communities at the state and national levels. JCPA continues to push for bipartisan legislation that would meaningfully reduce mandatory minimums, eliminate racial disparities, and provide greater support for rehabilitation and reentry.

Helping the Most Vulnerable

Beginning in the 1980s, JCPA expanded its portfolio to poverty, health care, and food insecurity, recognizing that racial and economic disparities persisted despite significant civil rights achievements. In the 2000s, JCPA fought for state and federal anti-hunger legislation, organizing Food Stamp Challenges and Hunger Seders on Capitol Hill to highlight the need for greater assistance. In 2007, JCPA launched a national interfaith poverty initiative urging local, state, and national leaders to advance anti-poverty legislation and programs that provide food, housing, health care, education, and employment training assistance.

Partnering with other faith communities, JCPA and its network have helped secure passage of numerous bills increasing funding for social safety net programs and expanding access to health care, including the Affordable Care Act. JCPA remains committed to ensuring quality health care for all, a living wage, and robust funding for social safety net programs. This includes Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or “food stamps”) and its supplement for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), the Free and Reduced School Lunch Program, and housing and home heating assistance.

Advocating for Immigration Reform

JCPA's immigration work began in 1946, with the fight to repeal the racist national origins quotas, which kept out many Jews—including those fleeing the Holocaust—and other “undesirables” like Asians, Catholics, Italians, Greeks, Poles, and Slavs. In 1952, JCPA formed an unaffiliated committee to carry out this work and by 1955 had organized a national coalition of civic associations, labor groups, and Christian organizations. For a decade, the coalition lobbied, leafleted, and wrote articles until quotas were finally repealed by the Immigration Reform Act of 1965. Over the next several decades, JCPA pushed for legislation to increase legal immigration, support newcomers, and provide a safe haven to refugees. In the mid-2000s, JCPA and HIAS organized the Immigration Nation initiative to build public support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform, which passed the Senate in 2013, but ultimately failed in the House.

Over the last two years, JCPA has renewed its commitment to compassionate immigration reform



JCPA Senior Policy Associate Tammy Gilden speaks at a rally in support of Dreamers, 2018.

amid new and worsening crises. We have filed joint amicus briefs opposing every iteration of the Muslim Travel Ban and continue to organize Jewish advocacy in support of Dreamers and higher refugee resettlement caps, while fighting to end family separation and detention, the rollback of child health and welfare standards, and the overall criminalization of migrants and asylum-seekers.

Preventing Gun Violence

Driven by a belief in the sanctity of life, JCPA has long fought for gun violence prevention, which a white supremacist made “personal” in 1999, when he opened fire with a submachine gun at the Los Angeles JCC, wounding five people. The shooting spurred decades of Jewish advocacy to end mass shootings and other types of gun violence, which have reached epidemic levels: Americans are now 25 times more likely to be killed by guns and eight times more likely to kill themselves with a gun than people in other developed countries. Meanwhile, 2017 was the deadliest year on record for mass shootings in the U.S. and gun-related homicide remains the leading cause of death among Black teens and adults, ages 15-34.

JCPA's fight for gun control originally began in 1968, in response to what the agency saw as “self-feeding reciprocity” of violence between Black communities



From the left: Parkland student activists Jaclyn Corin, Ryan Deitsch, and Matt Deitsch with Rabbi Joel Mosbacher, Jersey City Mayor Steven Fulop, and JWI Executive Lori Weinstein at JCPA2018.

and law enforcement. Over the next four decades, JCPA would repeatedly return to the scourge of gun violence, building consensus within the Jewish community to support commonsense regulations—

all while pushing back against “repressive” crime control measures.

JCPA has supported a wide range of legislative efforts designed to limit unfettered access to firearms, such as the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act and the Assault Weapons Ban. Still, the work to address rampant gun violence is ongoing, with frequent high-profile shootings, such as Sandy Hook, Orlando, Charleston, Las Vegas, and, most recently, at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, which has once again

brought the Jewish community and our allies together to fight against hate and violence at the state and national levels. In 2018, JCPA penned an open letter to Congress, with all four streams of religious Judaism, calling for strong measures to end gun violence like universal background checks and better mental health care. This letter was based on a comprehensive JCPA resolution passed in 2013. At the same time, JCPA continues to support the field’s state-level advocacy, where more can be accomplished than at the federal level.

Ensuring Religious Liberty and the Separation of Church and State

As a religious minority, Jews have a special stake in strengthening the United States’ commitment to both freedom of religion and separation of church and state. Beginning in 1946, JCPA played a leading role in decades-long campaigns to eliminate religious instruction, practices, and observances in public schools, as well as oppose government funding for parochial schools. With its partners, JCPA helped defeat Congressional attempts to overturn the Supreme Court’s rulings in *Engle vs. Vitale* (1962) and *Abington vs. Schempp* (1963) that voluntary prayer and mandatory bible reading in public schools were unconstitutional. At the same time, JCPA also worked to protect religious liberty, advocating for religious protections in federal lawmaking and in the workplace. Throughout the 2000s, JCPA worked with a broad coalition of faith groups to successfully challenge religious displays and symbols on public property.

Religious liberty issues have become more complex in recent years as the positions of many religious conservatives now conflict with nondiscrimination laws, particularly for LGBTQI+ people. JCPA continues to balance civil rights with religious liberty, working to defeat repeated attempts to undermine anti-discrimination protections, while at the same time defending the Johnson Amendment, which keeps campaign politics out of nonprofits and Houses of Worship.



Former JCPA Executive Larry Rubin with the Pope, 1998.

NATIONAL CONVENINGS

Every year, JCPA convenes hundreds of community relations leaders to network, strategize, learn from experts, and set national policy. In the months before, JCPA solicits policy resolutions from around the country, which our network then vets and votes on at the national conference.

GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS

Preventing Genocide and Mass Atrocities

In the aftermath of the Holocaust, JCPA expanded its mission to include global human rights, focusing primarily on genocide and other mass atrocities. JCPA has driven the fight for legislation to help prevent atrocities, aid and protect victims, and prosecute those responsible. JCPA fully embraced the Jewish exhortation to “welcome the stranger,” continuously working to ensure that the U.S. is a safe haven for those fleeing violence and persecution.

JCPA rallied its network to support the adoption of the United Nations Genocide Convention in 1948 through its final ratification by Congress 40 years later. In addition, JCPA strongly advocated for the development and use of international criminal tribunals and courts to prosecute those responsible for genocide and other war crimes. JCPA denounced Apartheid and promoted sanctions against South Africa in the 1980s. In the 1990s, JCPA lobbied for American intervention in Bosnia, where Bosnian Serb forces perpetrated a genocide against the Bosnian Muslim population. JCPA mobilized the Jewish community and helped organize—along with American Jewish World Service—the Save Darfur Coalition, which operated from 2004-2016 and included over 190 religious, political, and human rights groups. The coalition often partnered with celebrities and activists like George Clooney and Elie Wiesel to raise awareness



Actor George Clooney with former JCPA President Rabbi Steve Gutow, who chaired the Save Darfur Coalition, pictured at a Sudan rally in New York, 2012.

and build public support for action. The coalition’s Million Voices for Darfur Campaign deluged the White House with over one million hand-written and electronic postcards.

In 2017, JCPA joined with American Jewish World Service in forming the Jewish Rohingya Justice Network, a broad coalition of Jewish groups actively working to end what we now believe constitutes a genocide. We plan to aggressively pursue this agenda in the 116th Congress and with the United Nations. Already, Congress passed and the President signed into law the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act, for which JCPA and its partners advocated for two years.

Safeguarding World Jewry

In 1964, JCPA played a large role in the struggle to gain freedom for Soviet Jews, agreeing to form a coordinating body with the other Jewish communal agencies. By 1966, JCPA had assumed leadership of and financial responsibility for the coordinating body, known as the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, which would eventually become the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. Through these bodies, JCPA and its network pressured the U.S. government and built up public support using

rallies and global conferences until the USSR opened its borders and permitted Jews to leave in 1989. Shortly thereafter, JCPA also mobilized its network to free the 4,500 Jews trapped in Syria in 1992. After several decades of work, including running several leadership missions to Ethiopia, JCPA created the National Committee on Ethiopian Jewry, which helped lead Israel to secretly airlift over 20,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel in the early 90s.

PEACE & SECURITY IN ISRAEL



Top left: Former JCPA Chair Susie Turnbull with Simon Peres during the Israel Mission, 2016. Top right: JCPA Chair Cheryl Fishbein with the 2017 Israel Mission and Frank Fellows.

Bolstering U.S. Support for Israel

JCPA has always been a leader in support for Israel, beginning with the Arab League's initial boycott in 1945 and Israel's independence in 1948. JCPA successfully advocated for the first U.S. arms sales to Israel and, in response to attacks on Israel, organized mass rallies, letter-writing campaigns, and blood drives. Over the decades, JCPA has pushed for nuclear nonproliferation worldwide, helping to secure critical laws and international compacts, such as the 1996 Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, the 1997 Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and the 2010 Iran Sanctions Act. In times of war and discord, JCPA has advocated for Israel's right to defend itself and educated the public about the region.

As the convener of the organized American Jewish community, JCPA has been a central forum and negotiator within the community. JCPA remains committed to promoting open and respectful dialogue both within the Jewish community and among those JCPA engages in its community relations work. JCPA responds to inaccuracies and intemperate rhetoric by focusing on positive steps to deepen understanding and keep the lines of communication open.

OPENING CRITICAL DIALOGUE IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

In 1993, NJCRAC (JCPA) initiated the first Jewish communal meeting with Yasser Arafat. The leadership mission visited his headquarters in Gaza, recognizing that the Palestine Liberation Organization and Arafat would be Israel's partners in the peacemaking process.

It would be the first in a long series of these relationship-building meetings, which included welcoming Arafat in 1995 to address the JCPA quarterly executive committee meeting in one of his first meetings with American Jews in the United States.

In 2003, JCPA and the Israel Policy Forum organized a meeting of over 50 Jewish leaders, at the request of the Palestinian Authority's Prime Minister Abbas, so he could introduce himself and express his desire for peace to the American Jewish community.

Promoting a Two-State Solution

Throughout its history, JCPA has worked to advance the peace process by forming coalitions to build a constituency for peace, like Interfaith Partners for Peace, convening high-level talks with diplomats, and endorsing a two-state solution. JCPA continues to encourage the U.S. government to pursue a peaceful solution to the Israeli-Palestinian-Arab conflict through direct negotiations.



Creating the Israel Action Network

In 2010, JCPA and the Jewish Federations of North America founded the Israel Action Network to fight the delegitimization of Israel and Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) efforts. Today, the organization provides proactive strategies to strengthen interfaith partnerships and counter BDS attacks across North America. The Israel Action Network, working closely with local JCRCs, has helped defeat BDS at the state and municipal level and on college campuses across the nation.



Top: Former JCPA Senior Vice President Ethan Felson with the first Interfaith Partners for Peace mission to Israel, 2015. Bottom: JCPA and Israel Action Network members—Martin Raffel, Geri Palast, Emily Hochberg, David Dabscheck, and Hanna Dershowitz—with an Israeli government representative, 2014.

CONCLUSION

Even as we celebrate our accomplishments, we will continue to take stock of today's challenges and plan for the future. Though threats to Jewish and public well-being may have taken on new forms, core values and the community relations methodology are as important now as they were when JCPA was created.

...

“We as a Jewish community relations field are not prophets or preachers. We are practitioners who have the ability to mobilize the Jewish community in the common and good cause. But we provide the channels by which Jewish, as Jews, can act on the fundamental issues that confront society, and in our so doing we can foster a Jewish consciousness that preserves our heritage. We serve as the vehicles for preserving the

best that is Jewish and, as we do so, we also preserve the best that is American. But we must once again be on the cutting edge. We must once again address the critical issues of the nation as we did in our earlier years. We must be neither resigned nor passive in the face of age-old evils, nor inured to the scabrous ugliness of poverty, to the scourge of war or to hatreds direct against those who are different. That is what our Judaism mandates. That is what being ‘a good Jew’ means. That is what NJCRAC is all about.”

*Jacqueline K. Levine
Chair’s Address, Plenary Session, National Jewish
Community Relations Advisory Council
Washington, D.C., February 1984*



Timeline

— KEY —

JCPA HISTORY

WORLD HISTORY



FOUNDING FATHERS (l to r): Isaiah Minkoff, NCRAC Executive Director, 1944-1975; Joseph Proskauer, AIC President 1942-1949; Edgar J. Kaufmann, First NCRAC Chair; Harry Lurie, CJF Executive Director, 1932-1954.

1944

National Community Relations Advisory Council (NCRAC), later to be renamed JCPA, is founded as an umbrella organization for 14 national agencies and local community relations councils.



1948

United Nations adopts the **GENOCIDE CONVENTION**.

State of **ISRAEL** is established.

1950

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS is co-founded with the NAACP and the Brotherhood of the Sleeping Car Porters as an umbrella body modeled after NCRAC to coordinate civil rights lobbying. NCRAC housed and helped staff the Leadership Conference through successive civil rights victories.



1954

U.S. Supreme Court rules **SEGREGATION UNCONSTITUTIONAL** in public schools.

- 1940
- 1941
- 1942
- 1943
- 1944
- 1945
- 1946
- 1947
- 1948
- 1949
- 1950
- 1951
- 1952
- 1953
- 1954
- 1955

1946

CHALLENGING INTEGRATION OF RELIGION INTO PUBLIC SCHOOLS published, launching a national campaign.



1945

WORLD WAR II and the **HOLOCAUST** end.

1947

NCRAC publishes **POSTWAR EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS** report at request of the President.



1955

NCRAC committee spearheads the formation of the **AMERICAN IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP CONFERENCE**, the most influential coalition in the fight to repeal the racist immigration quotas.

JCPA was originally founded as the **National Community Relations Advisory Council (NCRAC)**. In 1969, NCRAC became **National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council (NJCRAC)**, and finally the **Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA)** in 1997.



1956

NCRAC joins the **CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE ON DESEGREGATION** as a founding member.

Jewish communal agencies agree to form a coordinating body to **END OPPRESSION OF SOVIET JEWS**.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 **OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION** in public spaces and creates the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

NCRAC joins **CITIZENS' CRUSADE AGAINST POVERTY**.



NCRAC helps organize the **MARCH ON WASHINGTON**, where Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivers his iconic "I Have a Dream" speech.

Congress passes the **EQUAL PAY ACT**.

1964



NCRAC assumes leadership of the **AMERICAN JEWISH CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY**

1966

1956

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1964

1965

1966

Congress passes the **FIRST CIVIL RIGHTS ACT**, establishing the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division.

Local Jewish councils obtain admittance of many persecuted **EGYPTIAN JEWS** into the U.S.

1957



1962

U.S. Supreme Court **PROHIBITS MANDATORY BIBLE STUDY** and prayer in public schools.



NCRAC at 1965 Selma march.



Congress passes the landmark **VOTING RIGHTS ACT**.

The Immigration and Nationality Act **REPEALS RACIST IMMIGRATION QUOTAS** as a result of NCRAC's American Immigration and Citizenship Conference decade of intensive lobbying.

Thousands attend the **NATIONAL ETHERNAL LIGHTS VIGIL**.

1965

At NCRAC's recommendation, Jewish communal agencies vote to consolidate disparate initiatives into the **NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY**.

1971

First **WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY** is held in Brussels.



1968

The Fair Housing Act **PROHIBITS DISCRIMINATION** in housing.

NCRAC helps negotiate the **FIRST U.S. ARMS SALE TO ISRAEL**.

JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT, championed by the Jewish community, makes trade with the Soviet Union conditional on allowing Jewish emigration.

1974

1975

HOLOCAUST COMMEMORATION ACTION PLAN

is issued to help local communities memorialize the Jewish Resistance.



1967

1968

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1974

1975

1976

1967

"**WASHINGTON REPS**" is created to convene the Washington representatives of NCRAC's national member agencies to discuss shared concerns. This body still exists today.

Israel wins the **SIX DAY WAR**.



Jewish activists smuggle out "**THE WHITE BOOK OF EXODUS**," with scores of personal letters and appeals, which the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry then publishes.

THOUSANDS DEMONSTRATE at a rally co-organized by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry at the United Nations, with over 100 local communities holding sister events around the nation.

1972

In response to the **1973 YOM KIPPUR WAR**, Jewish agencies mobilize grassroots to ensure strong U.S. support for Israel.

ROE V. WADE guarantees a woman's right to an abortion and NJCRAC votes to oppose efforts to undermine the decision.

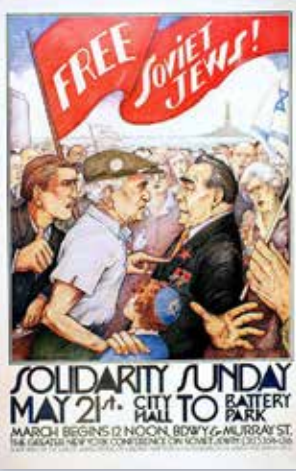
1973



1977

Over 200,000 people attend the **NEW YORK RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWS**, which helps prompt President Carter to affirm support for Soviet Jewish emigration.

The Israel Task Force leads Congress to pass the **ISRAEL ANTI-BOYCOTT ACT**.



The **"SHAME OF APARTHEID"** Initiative is launched to organize Jewish support for sanctions on South Africa.



1980

NJCRC TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS to defeat proposed prohibitions on federal courts hearing challenges to school prayer.

The **REFUGEE ACT**, which formalizes the refugee resettlement program and increases admissions, passes Congress with recommendations from Jewish communal agencies.

1977

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1981

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1987

1978

U.S. Supreme Court **UPHOLDS AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**.



1982

NJCRC runs two MISSIONS TO ETHIOPIA to raise morale and advocate for the relief and rescue of Ethiopian Jews.

On the eve of the first Reagan-Gorbachev summit meeting, a quarter million people attend the National Conference on Soviet Jewry's **"FREEDOM SUNDAY" MARCH**, the largest U.S. rally ever held on a Jewish issue.



1987

1988

USSR allows **SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION.**

U.S. Senate **RATIFIES THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION** after two decades of Jewish communal advocacy.

NJCRCAC holds a special **CONSULTATION ON LOW-INCOME HOUSING** in D.C. to address the growing shortage.



1990

The **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT** passes Congress.

At the urging of NJCRCAC and others, Congress enacts the **LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT** to grant refugee status to Soviet Jews and other persecuted religious minorities.



1993

The **COALITION ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND JEWISH LIFE (COEJL)** is founded.

The **RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT** passed Congress.

The **OSLO ACCORDS** are signed.

1994

First **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT** passes Congress.

1988

1989

1990

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1996

NJCRCAC helps broker a U.S.-Israel agreement that provides \$400 million in **U.S. HOUSING LOAN GUARANTEES** for Soviet Jewish resettlement in Israel.

1989



1992

NJCRCAC organizes the **HANUKAH RALLY** across from the new U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum to lobby for American intervention in Bosnia's genocide.

NJCRCAC successfully organizes its network to free the **4,500 SYRIAN JEWS.**

YASSER ARAFAT addresses the NJCRCAC Executive Committee in one of his first meetings with American Jews in the United States.

1995

Bush Urges U.N. to Repeal Zionism-Racism Resolution

By STANLEY MEISLER and DOUGLAS BISH...

UNITED NATIONS—in an act sure to help repair strained U.S. relations with Israel and American Jewish leaders, President Bush urged the General Assembly on Monday to unconditionally repeal its controversial 1975 resolution regarding Zionism with racism.

“The explicit Zionism with racism is a report Israel itself, a member of the United Nations,” he went on. “This has been the case since it was passed and at

the same time challenge Israel’s right to exist. By repealing the resolution unconditionally, the United Nations will enhance its credibility and settle the issue of peace.”

In Jerusalem, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin described Bush’s address to the United Nations as “a very beautiful and inspiring speech.”

“I hope that the resolution will become an example at other parts here,” Shany told reporters. “We will see in the next few weeks.”

Although the United States has long opposed the Zionism-racism resolution, it had never before made a formal request for repeal. Repeal that any campaign would be futile. Israeli officials have also said in the past that they would never campaign for repeal unless they were sure of a considerable

1991

NJCRCAC’s **NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON ETHIOPIAN JEWRY** helps lead Israel to secretly airlift 14,000 Ethiopian Jews to Israel.

The United Nations repeals the 1975 Zionism-Racism Resolution after years of pressure organized by the **NJCRCAC ISRAEL TASK FORCE.**



1997

Sanctions on Iran and the **COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY** help discourage weapons of mass destruction.

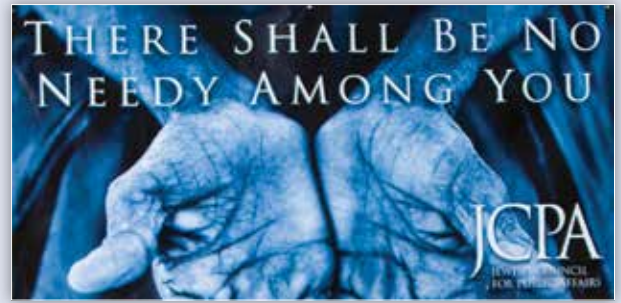
JCPA helps expand the **NATIONAL JEWISH COALITION FOR LITERACY**, founded in Boston, across 65 communities.

The **INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ACT** passes Congress.



1999

Shooting at the Los Angeles JCC spurs calls for **GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION** laws, winning modest gun sales reform.



A **NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVE** is created to advocate for domestic human needs programs.

2007



2004

The **SAVE DARFUR COALITION** is founded, advocating for the end of genocide against the people of Darfur.

1997

1998

1999

2000

2001

2002

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

1998



The Vatican releases **"WE REMEMBER: A REFLECTION ON THE SHOAH ON THE CHURCH AND THE HOLOCAUST,"** as a result of JCPA's 10 years of engagement with the Catholic community.

In response to a series of suicide bombings in Israel, JCPA, the Orthodox Union, and the Religious Action Center organize a **RALLY FOR ISRAEL** where then-former (and future) Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu addresses over 100,000 people.

2002



Over 75,000 attend the **SAVE DARFUR RALLY** in Washington, which features George Clooney, then Senator Obama, and Elie Wiesel.

2006





2008

JCPA and Catholic Charities USA organize the first "FIGHTING POVERTY WITH FAITH" week of action on Capitol Hill.
JCPA unanimously endorses a TWO-STATE SOLUTION for the first time.

2009

The HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT passes Congress after a decade of advocacy.
JCPA and MAZON organize the first CHILD NUTRITION SEDER on Capitol Hill to highlight the need for poverty legislation. More than 30 JCRCs host similar Seders around the country.
JCPA convenes a national roundtable of top EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN AND JEWISH LEADERS to build bridges between the communities.
JCPA is appointed to the PRESIDENT'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FAITH-BASED AND NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERSHIPS.



2012

Following Sandy Hook, JCPA organizes the VOTE ON GUNS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN.



2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

The ISRAEL ACTION NETWORK, a multimillion-dollar initiative, is created to combat BDS and Israel delegitimization.
The CAMPAIGN FOR CIVILITY is established and RESETTling THE TABLE is created to help facilitate difficult conversations within the Jewish community.
Congress passes the IRAN SANCTIONS ACT.

2010



JCPA and IAN team members



JCPA's FOOD STAMP CHALLENGE includes 11 Congress members and a top advisor to President Obama.

2011

JCPA and HIAS create the IMMIGRATION NATION CAMPAIGN to advocate for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.
JCPA leaders join forces for the first time with the AMERICAN TASK FORCE ON PALESTINE to lobby Senators to restart peace talks.

2013





JCPA launches the **CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM INITIATIVE** to engage the Jewish community in this critical issue and strengthen relationships with people of color, disproportionately incarcerated in the U.S. since the 1970s.

2016

The U.S. signs the international **PARIS AGREEMENT** to address climate change.



2017

JCPA joins with American Jewish World Service in forming the **JEWISH ROHINGYA JUSTICE NETWORK**, a broad coalition of Jewish groups working to end the genocide in Burma.

Multiple efforts in Congress to undermine the **AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND THE JOHNSON AMENDMENT** are defeated.

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

INTERFAITH PARTNERS FOR PEACE is created to bring Jewish and non-Jewish clergy together to bolster support for a two-state outcome for Israelis and Palestinians.

2015



JCPA organizes more than 350 Jewish groups to publicly pressure Congress and the Administration to **END FAMILY SEPARATION**.

Two Advocacy Days on Capitol Hill are held to lobby lawmakers on **POVERTY, IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEES, CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM, AND ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN COEXISTENCE**.

JCPA convenes **JEWISH CRIMINAL JUSTICE EXPERTS** to charter a path forward on reform and engagement.

2018





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