

THE WORLD CONGRESS
OF
GAY AND LESBIAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS



P.O. Box 18961 Washington, D.C. 20036 USA

The joys of membership ...

Gay and/or Lesbian Jewish organizations across the globe can become members of the World Congress. Individuals can join as friends of the World Congress.

World Congress members and "Friends" enjoy the following benefits:

International family ▼ Meet other Gay and Lesbian Jews from around the world at our conferences. Join an international family.

Visibility ▼ Be part of a positive Jewish Gay and Lesbian presence around the world. Let mainstream Jewish organizations hear from you.

Information ▼ Enjoy access to a clearing-house for religious, social, and political information. Receive the World Congress Digest. Learn from the experience of other member groups and "Friends" around the globe.

Shared visions ▼ Send delegates from your organization to help the World Congress determine direction and shape policies.

A unified voice ▼ Give your voice strength by adding it to the voices of others in an international community committed to representing your most basic rights. 

For more information about the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations and how to add your voice, send in the enclosed form, or write to:



WCGLJO
P.O. Box 18961
Washington, D.C. 20036
USA

Gay? Lesbian? Jewish?

A worldwide family is ready to welcome you.

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What is the World Congress?

The World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (the World Congress) is an umbrella organization representing dozens of Gay and Lesbian Jewish groups around the world—in North America, Europe, Israel, and beyond. Some World Congress members are congregations. Others pursue primarily social, cultural, and political activities.

In 1975, five Gay and Lesbian Jewish congregations from cities across the USA met in New York to respond to the United Nations resolution equating Zionism with racism. Empowered by the feeling of solidarity, the groups decided to meet annually. In 1979, they met in Israel where they held the first Gay rights march ever in the Jewish state. In 1980, 16 groups attended the annual meeting and formed the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations.

The World Congress challenges homophobia and sexism within the Jewish community, responds to anti-Semitism at large, and supports and strengthens Gay and Lesbian Jewish groups and communities worldwide. 

What do we do?

We unite ▼ The World Congress arranges biennial International Conferences of Gay and Lesbian Jews, held in major cities around the world. Regional conferences are held in alternate years. 

We educate ▼ The World Congress prints and distributes educational literature. Over 18,000 copies of an original pamphlet dispelling myths about homosexuality were produced by the World Congress and sent to rabbis and Jewish community leaders across North America. Through our speakers bureau, we initiate dialogue to promote awareness and understanding with other Jewish organizations internationally. 

We share ▼ Many World Congress members are congregations which have created degenderized liturgies, encouraging equal participation of women and men in their services. World Congress organizations enjoy sharing their unique programs, like a Gay Liberation Seder recounting the events of Stonewall, commitment ceremonies, and services of hope and comfort for PWAs and the worried well. 

We challenge ▼ Across the globe, the World Congress responds to homophobia and anti-Semitism.

When the British Parliament legislated the discriminatory anti-Gay "Clause 28," the

World Congress and its member groups led demonstrations at British embassies and consular offices worldwide, while in London, the Secretary of the World Congress formed "Jews Against the Clause."

In Israel, where The Jewish National Fund (JNF) refuses to mark a grove of trees for its Gay and Lesbian donors, the World Congress maintains a blank plaque symbolizing our defiance of JNF's homophobic policies.

In the United States when on two occasions the New England office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL) honored outspoken homophobes with humanitarian awards, the World Congress responded. Nationwide letter writing campaigns were organized protesting ADL's choices, while the local member group participated in demonstrations coinciding with the award ceremonies.

Within the Gay and Lesbian community, we challenge anti-Semitism at many levels. World Congress representatives have worked with Gay and Lesbian Christian educators to remove biases from their curricula. We have met with staff members of Gay and Lesbian publications to assure coverage of issues concerning the Gay and Lesbian Jewish community.

At rallies in support of Soviet Jews, Gay and Lesbian rights, action on AIDS; or demonstrations against apartheid and women's oppression, the World Congress is there. 