

AIDS

As of December, 1991, over 202,843 men and women have been diagnosed with AIDS in the United States and over 130,000 Americans have actually died from AIDS, more than double the number of Americans killed during the Vietnam war. Moreover, it is now estimated that between 1 and 1.5 million Americans are infected with the HIV virus.

At this time, there is no vaccine or cure for AIDS. AIDS is universally fatal. Unlike many other diseases, AIDS carries a terrible stigma which further penalizes its victims and their loved ones.

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, believes that it must help bring knowledge and compassion to bear upon the ignorance, fear and prejudice surrounding this epidemic. We therefore resolve to:

- work for increased funding, and full appropriation of government funds already authorized for research and treatment of AIDS in a manner consistent with the urgency of this human crisis.
- advocate a rational discourse with regard to the adoption of federal and state legislative measure that prohibit discrimination against persons with AIDS.
- urge our elected officials to secure increased services for persons with AIDS.
- initiate and promote education about the various aspects of the issues concerning AIDS, including resources within and without the Jewish community to assist persons with AIDS, their families and loved ones.