

RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL ASSOCIATION
RESPONDS TO ATTACK ON ISRAELI LGBT CENTER

Statement of the RRA Board, August 11, 2009/21 Av 5769

The Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association joins with the many voices that have condemned the August 1st attack at a Tel-Aviv Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender youth center. This attack not only strikes at the lives and families of those killed and wounded, but at all who cherish diversity, pluralism, democracy and respect for difference. As Martin Peled-Flax, the Israeli Embassy minister-counselor for domestic political affairs has stated, this is an attack “on Israel’s civil society as a whole.”

Incendiary language, especially when wrapped in religious rhetoric can not but help to create a climate of mistrust, anger and hatred against those who are gay, lesbian, bi-sexual or transgender. We therefore condemn as well those who exploit positions of civil, political and religious leadership to deny the acceptance and human rights of LGBT people.

During these weeks prior to the Jewish New Year when biblical passages of consolation are read, we extend our condolences to the families of the victims of this attack. We stand with the people and government of Israel as they work to bring the perpetrator of this crime to justice. And we pray that the holiness implicit in the biblical teaching that each person is created in the image of God will embrace all people.