

A Resolution Against the Use of Gassing in State Executions

Approved by a vote of the JCRC at the February 18, 2024 meeting.

The Jewish Community Relations Council of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans firmly opposes the implementation of gas suffocation as a method of execution in Louisiana. We unequivocally call for the rejection of suffocation-based executions, whether through the use of masks or any form of gas chamber, within the state of Louisiana.

As a community guided by ethical principles and a deep respect for human dignity, it is imperative for Jews to take a strong stance against the use of gassing in state executions. This position is rooted in our historical experiences, moral teachings, and commitment to justice. The use of lethal gas in executions not only violates fundamental human rights but also evokes painful memories of the Holocaust, where millions of Jews and others were murdered in gas chambers. We do not suggest comparisons to the atrocities of Nazi Germany under which millions of our relatives were murdered, many by suffocation in sealed chambers. Still, we cannot imagine it possible that Jewish communities anywhere could stand by while prisoners are executed in our names, using any variation of that mechanism.

Therefore, we are resolutely united in our opposition to the expansion of capital punishment methods in Louisiana to include gassing in any form.

Therefore, the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater New Orleans supports taking the following action steps:

- Actively oppose the use of gassing in state executions.
- Advocate for legislative action at the state level that abolishes this inhumane practice.
- Build or join coalitions with other organizations and individuals who share a commitment to opposing this inhumane practice.

ABOUT: The Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) is a standing committee of the Jewish Federation of Greater New Orleans that serves as the Federation's advocacy and social action arm, engaging all segments of the Greater New Orleans Jewish community and connecting with non-Jewish individuals and groups in the region to promote Jewish values.

The JCRC is made up of representatives from local Jewish organizations and members from the Jewish community at large.