



October 4, 2006: Revised and Approved, Anti-Semitism and Constitutional Law Task Force
October 11, 2006: Amended and Approved, Executive Committee
October 18, 2006: Approved by the Board of Directions

Position on Capital Punishment

The Milwaukee Jewish Council for Community Relations opposes capital punishment in the State of Wisconsin.

While the Bible clearly provides for the use of the death penalty for various crimes in certain circumstances, Jewish law and interpretation, history, tradition and ethics all reveal a deep antipathy toward capital punishment on both moral and practical grounds.

Further, we believe capital punishment is no greater deterrent to crime than other forms of punishment, and we are troubled that it is unequally applied against the poor and minorities, and that innocent people have been sentenced to death.

We also believe that capital punishment is contrary to Jewish values when the State, in the name of deterring crimes of violence and murder, itself resorts to killing human beings.