



DO NOT STAND IDLY BY



## CONFLICT FREE CONGREGATIONS TOOLKIT

We use computers, cell phones, and a plethora of other electronics daily. But the trade in tin, tantalum, tungsten, and gold – key minerals used in these products – is funding the thirteen year-old war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The conflict in eastern Congo is the deadliest since WWII, claiming 5.4 million lives through war-related violence, disease and starvation. Women’s bodies have become the battleground in this brutal war to control Congo’s mineral wealth; hundreds of thousands of woman have been raped in the course of the war, destroying women’s bodies, their communities, and their country.

With our offices and classrooms full of cell phones, computers, and printers, our community has a lot to say to the electronics industry. Together we can promise to give our substantial business to companies that produce products untainted by these atrocities when they become available.

### Do Not Stand Idly By – Make your Congregation Conflict-Free!

#### Step One: Let us know.

Tell us you’re interested in becoming a part of JWW’s **CONGO NOW!** campaign.

Contact us at [info@jewishworldwatch.org](mailto:info@jewishworldwatch.org) to let us know you’d like to get started on this project and ask any questions you may have in order to jump start your initiatives.

#### Step Two: Educate yourself.

JWW will help you understand the finer points of the issue so that you can answer questions for your congregation’s board about this project. We’d also be happy to **schedule one of our trained speakers** to teach your congregation about the conflict-minerals issue. Call us at 818-501-1836 or email at [info@jewishworldwatch.org](mailto:info@jewishworldwatch.org) to schedule a speaker.

#### Step Three: Identify Your Targets.

Find out who in your congregation’s administration is in charge of overseeing general financial decisions, as well as purchasing decisions for your congregation’s electronic equipment. Ask your congregation’s leadership and staff for advice on the best entry-point for the discussion.

#### Step Four: Build support within the community.

The more support you can tangibly demonstrate for making your congregation conflict-free, the stronger a case you will be able to make to your administration that issuing a conflict-free congregation declaration is an important issue. Ask your rabbi to speak about the conflict minerals issue at services, organize a community-wide teach-in, or put together a petition – anything to demonstrate community support for action!

### Step Five: Pass the resolution!

Discuss the resolution with the Executive Director and Chair of your congregation's Board of Directors, and get a broader Board discussion of the resolution on the agenda for your congregation's next Board meeting. Be prepared to answer questions or concerns your Board members may have – you may choose to invite a representative to JWW to speak about the resolution and answer questions as well.

### Draft Conflict-Free Congregation Resolution<sup>1</sup>

Authors:

Sponsors:

WHEREAS, the congregation and community of <CONGREGATION> has declared its commitment to human rights and social justice and has taken affirmative steps throughout its history to promote these values; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations Group of Experts on the Democratic Republic of the Congo released a final report on December 12, 2008 which found that armed groups in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo continue to fight over, illegally plunder, and profit greatly from the trade of columbite-tantalite (coltan), cassiterite, wolframite, and gold in the eastern Congo ("Conflict Minerals"), some or all of which are used in such electronics equipment as computers, mobile phones, digital cameras, camcorders, game consoles and other items; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate and the House of Representatives have found that armed groups bear responsibility for massive atrocities in the eastern Congo; and

WHEREAS, the International Rescue Committee has reported that more than 5.4 million civilians have been killed and countless more remain at risk as a consequence of attacks conducted by armed groups in eastern Congo; and

WHEREAS, the U.N. has urged the international community to press the armed militias to cooperate with a U.N. peacekeeping force authorized under U.N. Security Council Resolution 1291; and

WHEREAS the non-governmental organization Global Witness released a comprehensive report on July 9, 2009 that found armed groups to be routinely smuggling Conflict Minerals across the Congolese borders into neighboring countries for sale to third parties; and

WHEREAS, the armed groups in the eastern Congo generate an estimated \$144 million each year by trading in conflict minerals; and

WHEREAS, alternative and legitimate sources of these minerals are available from non-militarized regions of Congo and other mineral-producing countries, and purchasing from legitimate sources in Congo can strengthen the legitimacy of the minerals trade in Congo; and

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<sup>1</sup> Please note: this draft resolution is meant as a starting point. Please feel free to edit and adapt it to your congregation's particular circumstance.

WHEREAS, to ensure that the minerals used in electronics equipment are conflict free, it is therefore insufficient to trace the minerals to their country of origin; instead it is essential to trace them to their mine of origin and to audit the full supply chain; and

WHEREAS, <CONGREGATION> purchases and uses electronics products from companies which may, wittingly or unwittingly, use conflict minerals in their supply chains;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Directors of <CONGREGATION> calls on electronic companies worldwide to take the necessary steps to remove conflict minerals from their supply chain and to confirm the ultimate source of component minerals.

Be it Further Resolved that <CONGREGATION> will factor whether electronic products manufacturers certify that their products are free of conflict minerals in future purchasing decisions and, when available, will favor verifiably conflict-free products.

Be it Further Resolved that <CONGREGATION> will communicate its decision to its investment managers and advisors urging them to invest in businesses that are conflict free.

Be it Further Resolved that <CONGREGATION> will convey to its congregants and the wider faith community <CONGREGATION>'s actions and urge them to do the same.