

Soviet Jewry

1970-85

JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF OTTAWA

In the Soviet Union, many Jews encountered systematic, institutional antisemitism. A large number of Soviet Jews applied for exit visas in the period following the 1967 Six-Day War but were denied. "Refusenik" was an unofficial term for Soviet Jews (and others) who were denied permission to emigrate.

Strong international condemnations including Ottawa's supported by the Vaad Ha'Ir, influenced Soviet authorities to significantly increase the emigration quota.



Above and below: Rabbi Reuven Bulka speaking to a crowd at a Freedom rally for the Soviet Jews, 1970s.



Above: Demonstration against terrorism, 1974. Shows Rose Taylor, Zev Vered, Sara Vered and Sol Shinder with Ottawa Jewish children. Taken near Agudath Israel Synagogue. Photo credit: The Ottawa Citizen



Above: Freedom rally for Soviet Jews on Parliament Hill, 1970s. Photographer: Howard Kay Photography



Right: A crowd and signage at a Freedom rally for the Soviet Jews, 1970s.



Left: Simchat Torah Rally for Soviet Jewry in Ottawa, Oct. 6, 1985. Photographer: Jonah A. Libman



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