



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

# Proclamation

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Coalition Responds to the Crisis in Darfur has initiated a project to adopt, as a state, the Oure Cassoni Refugee Camp in Chad and raise funds to provide each family there with a solar cooker; and

WHEREAS, the Solar Cooker Project was originated by the Jewish World Watch so that women and young girls will not have to leave the camp to gather firewood for cooking; and

WHEREAS, women and young girls are vulnerable to rape while collecting essential firewood, with tens of thousands of women and young girls having been raped, beaten and branded outside their camps by bands of roaming militia; and

WHEREAS, the use of solar cookers allows them to remain in the relative protection of the camp, and statistics show that once the need for the women to leave the camps is reduced, acts of violence against them fall by nearly 80%; and

WHEREAS, women manufacture the cookers, gaining a new skill and a chance to generate income for their families, with 500 women trained in the use of the solar cookers each month; and

WHEREAS, 80% of the more than 28,000 refugees in the Oure Cassoni camp are women and children; and

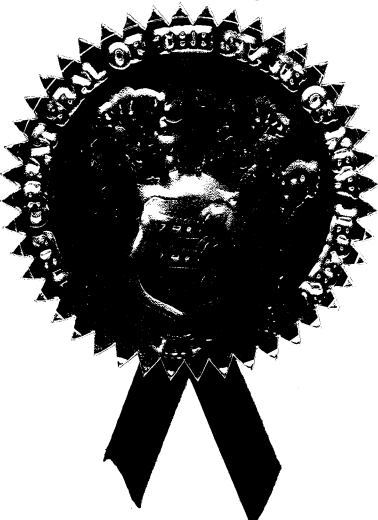
WHEREAS, two solar cookers can save one ton of wood each year; and

WHEREAS, we have a moral responsibility to act in the name of our common humanity—we cannot stand idly by;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JON S. CORZINE, Governor of the State of New Jersey, do hereby commend the

## NEW JERSEY COALITION RESPONDS TO THE CRISIS IN DARFUR

on this life-saving initiative, and do encourage all residents to participate in the Solar Cooker project.



GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this night day of December in the year two thousand eight, the two hundred thirty-third year of the Independence of the United States.

GOVERNOR

BY THE GOVERNOR:

NINA MITCHELL WELLS  
SECRETARY OF STATE