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To whom it may concern:

I am taking the liberty to write about the people in the Americas who claim to be descendants of the marranos of Spain and Portugal.

They must be treated like full Jews in every way (counted for a *minyan*, given *aliyot*, etc.).

Only when one of these *anusim* wishes to marry a Jew, must he or she undergo full conversion. That is, he or she must undergo immersion in a mikve (without the blessing) and full acceptance of mitzvot or commitment to the Torah. A man, if he is uncircumcised, must in addition undergo circumcision; if he is already circumcised, then he has to undergo *hatafat dam brit*.

Hoping that this will clarify the solution to this problem, I remain—

Respectfully yours,

  
Rabbi Aaron Soloveichik