



ASSOCIATION OF RABBIS AND CANTORS FOR JEWISH RENEWAL

אגודת הרבנים והחזנים להתחדשות היהדות

October 9th, 2023
24 Tishrei, 5784

A Statement from OHALAH in Response to Hamas' Attack on Israel

We are in mourning and disbelief at the brutal terrorist attacks carried out against our brothers and sisters in Israel.

When some of our people suffer, we all suffer, for we are one body. On this *Simchat Torah* - even now - we found joy in the *Torah* - knowing that all its paths are peace and its way is to love all that has been and will be created by the Holy One.

As tears drip down our faces, we know that our prayers matter. We pray for and send peace and love. In our heartbreak, we send support to all families who have and continue to experience loss.

We could delve into a deep sadness when we take in the state of the world and the hate that consumes some hearts and minds but we must remember that what we think and how we act matters- embody peace and love, spread peace and love in every space in which you walk.

As it says in *Pirkei Avot*, the Ethics of our Fathers,

אוהב שלום ורודף שלום אוהב את הבריות ומקרבן לתורה.

Love peace and pursue peace, love God's Creation and bring It closer to *Torah*.

And as we sing every time we stand in front of an ark filled with *Torah* and we begin to close the door,

דְּרָכֶיהָ דְרָכֵי נֵעִם וְכָל נְתִיבוֹתֶיהָ שְׁלוֹם

“The *Torah's* way is the way of pleasantness and all her paths are peace.”

We pray that the years of healing ahead will bring a just and peaceful future to all the descendants of Abraham.

At *Simchat Torah* services we chanted over and over again the words: עֲנֵנוּ בַיּוֹם קִרְאֵנוּ - 'answer us on the day that we call'! We continue to call out - please answer us, end all violence, protect us and save us!