



UNION FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

מועצת הרבנים

The Rabbinic Council of the Union for Progressive Judaism

There are no words to express the sadness that we feel after the horrific attack on the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Though a world away, all Jews are connected one to another, and therefore their pain is ours as well. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims, and we wish a complete and speedy recovery to those who were wounded. We stand with people of all faiths in condemnation of such murderous and senseless violence.

Sadly, we live in a world where people are increasingly turning towards hate and division. Where violence and derision, rather than respectful dialogue is the mode of choice. Thoughts and prayers are not enough. Instead, we must use these as an impetus to change the world, to make it a better place for our children and grandchildren. May we never stand silent or fail to act in the face of hatred and bigotry.

Let us partner with all who pursue a world free of baseless hatred, and who condemn acts of violence against our people and all peoples. May these acts only strengthen our resolve to teach our children to love: to love kindness, to love being Jewish, to love the stranger, to love peace, and to love God.

Despite our grief, our tenacity and strength as a people draws us even more closely together. In the face of violence and destruction, we loudly respond, "Am Yisrael chai! – The People Israel Live."

The Union of Progressive Judaism includes congregations in Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

Rabbi Kim Ettlinger, Chairperson (Temple Beth Israel, Melbourne)
Rabbi David Kunin, Vice- Chair (Jewish Community of Japan, Tokyo)
Rabbi Shoshana Kaminsky, Secretary (Beit Shalom Synagogue, Adelaide)
Rabbi Nicole Roberts, Treasurer (North Shore Temple Emanuel, Sydney)