



ISRAELITE LEADERSHIP RESPONSE UNIT

Statement on behalf of the Israelite Communities in the United States of America; with consent of many Israelite Community Leaders.



Written by:

Chief Rabbi Capers Shmuel Funnyé

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We, the Israelite Community, are deeply saddened as we recognize this moment of despair where many feel helpless and hopeless due to the battle with the COVID-19 pandemic that has taken over 100,000 lives, record unemployment of 42 million, and a country stifled by racial injustice past and present. The future of this 243- year experiment called American Democracy is at a crossroads and it has never been more uncertain.

This nation continues to fight another virus, the one it was born with. A virus for which it has found no vaccine or cure. This virus is the disease of slavery, racism, and injustice. Worse than any Coronavirus, it has caused the death of countless people in this country. The Confederacy's attack sought to destroy the bodies of blacks, leaving them crippled. The Civil war ended the fever, but recovery was gripped in pain and weakness.

The virus remained, rebounded, and mutated into Jim Crow, which caused death and destruction among the descendants of those who survived the initial outbreak. Its constantly present, wreaking havoc and destroying lives as we wait for a cure. We were given new hope that we shall overcome when we saw black and white faces, of various ethnicities, rich, poor, from both political sides have a clear message that in unity there is strength to repair the breaches of this American experiment.

The last three years of immature, narcissistic leadership of this country has dismissed the pain of the many and the reality of truth. This leadership has chosen to ignore the needs of our community. They have chosen greed and sacrificed on the altar of fear, xenophobia, and complacency. Under the current leadership the callous disregard for truth has led this nation to a great divide where we must now choose our fate. Our shared fate lies in the hands of "We the People." We may not have started the problem, but it is ours to fix. As Dr. King stated "we will learn to live together as brothers or we will die as fools." We now have at stake the soul of this Nation, where the old mantle must be discarded if we are to hope for the survival.

Destiny has required us to forge a new path to obtain a cure. Ask yourselves "If brother shows no compassion to brother then who will"? One of our spiritual leaders, Rabbi Yohanan taught "that greatness is a life turned outward, so that other people's suffering matters more to us than our own." We have lost sight that America's prosperity is for all of us, but we now find ourselves living in a plutocracy where the fewest people have the majority of wealth. The working poor suffer from a lack of education, earning a livable wage, affordable housing, and a lack of health care. Until the racist American caste system has been destroyed, we will continue to drug ourselves on false exceptionalism, distorted truths of superiority, and the addictive opium of the "Neo Culture War Prosperity Faith".

Amaude Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and countless others, were victims, not for any crime perpetrated against their assailants. They were victims of hatred due to lies and racism passed down generations throughout America's history. Racism, bigotry and propaganda were used to justify inhumane rule and oppressive treatment of people with black and brown skin.

We stand in solidarity with community activists, whose goals are to educate the African American community to counteract the lack of self-esteem and lack of confidence brought about by 400 years of oppression and marginalization. We stand with peaceful protestors, and any organizations; whose goals are to provide equal educational opportunities for

communities of color and who further seek to eliminate the financial disparities, justice inequalities and other indignities that have plagued black families, caused by years of subtle legislative imbalance.

By working together within our communities to provide spiritual healing, social outreach and retelling the narrative of African Americans in this country is the only cure for this racist virus that only affects our communities.

All inquiries or request should be written to:

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