



The Liberal Jewish Synagogue

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Dear Members and Friends,

We are all shocked and saddened by the senseless act of hatred that occurred on Shabbat morning at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, PA. The community had gathered together to honour Shabbat and to welcome twin babies into the covenant of our people.

We mourn with the families who have lost loved ones, both the service attendees and the law enforcement officers who were killed, and we pray for healing for those who suffered injuries.

Our hearts ache at the unnecessary violence, and at the scourge of antisemitism that seems to have the motivation of the perpetrator. Our sages teach, "*Kol Yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*," meaning that the entire Jewish community is connected one to another. We hold the Tree of Life congregation, its leaders and families, and the greater Pittsburgh Jewish community, in our hearts today, offering solace and comfort at this time of pain and loss. We stand in solidarity with Jewish communities and institutions all over the world who strive for peaceful relations with their neighbours, and who act as God's partners bringing us towards a more just world.

For those who wish to gather, on Tuesday 30th October at 6.45pm, we will hold a memorial service at the LJS. This will be a time for prayer and reflection.

This weekend our Kabbalat Torah students visited the Resistance Museum in Amsterdam, a reminder to all of us of the importance of never giving up on the need to act for justice for all people. Each of us has the power to be an agent of change - to promote love, tolerance and understanding in a world that seems to be feeding off hatred and bigotry.

Steve Penn, a member of Council and who oversees matters of security at the LJS has written the following:

'I have had communication from CST which encourages us to remain vigilant although there is no intelligence of any impending attacks here in the UK. There will be added police presence around Jewish locations (including the LJS) during Shabbat as well as throughout the week.

'Furthermore, we have robust security measures in place. However horrific and heart-breaking this attack is, there are, thankfully, very few attacks like this in the UK. We need to remember those who have tragically lost their lives, be alert and vigilant and continue with our everyday lives.'

Please be in touch with any questions or concerns.

With a fervent belief in the goodness of humanity and hope for a time of peace for all people.

As ever,

Rabbi Alexandra Wright

Rabbi Elana Dellal

Student Rabbi Igor Zinkov

Sue Head, Chairman of Council

Judaism for Today and Tomorrow

A constituent of Liberal Judaism

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