

We watched in horror on October 7 as Hamas carried out a terror attack against the Jewish people of Israel. We condemn this action, and our hearts are heavy with grief for the many who suffered loss. We stand with and extend our love to our neighbors in Am HaYam Havurah, praying along with those who have loved ones in Israel, and for the release of all hostages. We also commit ourselves to stand against those in this country who would pursue acts of antisemitism during these dark days.

We grieve equally for the suffering people of Gaza, recognizing that all of us are children of God. Our hearts tell us that answers are to be found not in violence, and we abhor the deaths of innocent men, women and children on both sides. We pray for a cessation of this conflict, and for peace with justice for both Israelis and Palestinians. We also stand with our Muslim neighbors, and deplore the presence of Islamophobia in any form.

We recognize that among our various faith communities, differences of opinion will exist over what is the faithful way forward in this crisis. But let us together at this time affirm the strength of our interfaith bonds, and stand against all hateful words and actions.

*"Put away violence and destruction, and practice justice and righteousness."*

(Ezekiel 45:9)