



Congregation Habonim

קהילת הבונים

Friends - My heart hurts. Telling my 8 year old about the state of our world is so painful. This girl's heart fills with pride when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing America the Beautiful. Yet, even at 8 years of age, she needs to know that we live in an imperfect world, a world in which the response to a zero tolerance policy for border crossing separated thousands of children from their parents in cruel and inhumane ways.

As Jews, we must stand together and respond with one clear voice. Just as we aspire to live lives of righteousness, so too must we stand up in the face of moral emergency.

Congregation Habonim has joined more than 15,000 Jewish individuals across the country and well over 80 local and National Jewish organizations, synagogues and communities in signing a Declaration of a State of Moral Emergency. You can add your name to the thousands of others at https://www.bendthearc.us/moral_emergency

As the Declaration proclaims, *United by the wisdom of our tradition, we stand with immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, with the children, and with their parents. We declare: Not here. Not now. Not in our name.* This evening (Thursday, June 21) at 6pm in Foley Square, many in the community will come together as *New York Jews for a Just and Humane Immigration Policy*. If you are able, make signs, go downtown, stand up for change and unearth our moral fiber. Download texts for placards/signs here <http://www.truah.org/resources/protest-placards/> Other actions include

- Calling your Senators and urging them to co-sponsor the Keep Families Together Act, holding our government accountable for acting in the best interests of children.
- Emailing your Congressional Representatives and telling them to oppose immigration bills that harm survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault.
- Joining a *Families Belong Together* event here in NYC - and around the country - on June 30, 2018. Locations available at <https://act.moveon.org/event/families-belong-together/>
- Purchasing the following items from Amazon and other online vendors and having them sent directly to Temple Emanuel, 4300 North Chai Street, McAllen TX 78504. Attn: Rabbi Claudio Kogan. Important items include disposable diapers; Men's shoes sizes 7 & 8; Women's shoes sizes 5,6,7; Bras sizes 32B, 34B, 36B.

As a community founded by refugees, it is critical that we represent the rights of those in need and remind ourselves of the role we must play in embracing basic humanity. There is no time to waste. The time is now.

Rabbi Lisa B. Gelber