

Community Vigil Following Pittsburgh Anti-Semitic Terrorist Attack
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We have seen something vile and dangerous unleashed in our nation. In a 72 hour period, hate motivated violence targeted those who dare to disagree with our President, African Americans in church and at a grocery store, and Jews praying in synagogue.

This followed a 120 hour period in which there was a legislative attack on transgender America, serious allegations of voter suppression of African-America, widespread demonization of people fleeing violence and seeking refuge in this country.

We know this story. Our history has taught us that when dissent is attacked, xenophobia stoked, violence against worshippers in their sacred spaces, legislative action taken to suppress minorities, and the right to vote suppressed.... we are living in a very, very dangerous moment.

Our history is very clear: where democracy decays, and where the social fabric frays, we are not safe. And other minority groups are not safe.

When Jews feel hunted in American synagogues, when African Americans feel hunted in their own homes, when LGBTQ people feel hunted in their clubs, when American children of every stripe are hunted in their community centers and SCHOOLS.... it is time we said enough.

It is natural to be fearful. But rather than become paralyzed, our fear should be channeled into work.

We must work to guard against further decay of our democracy, to advance decency, to build bridges, to reinforce our social fabric. We can take the energy from today and go work, shoulder-to-shoulder with people from different backgrounds to do something positive to enhance the quality of life for everyone.

We can go together to advance common cause, to work for our democracy.

We can be heartened by the messages of solidarity and condolences that we Jews have received in the last 24 hours, from our Muslim and Christian friends, and remember that the next time a group is targeted, it is our obligation to call these communities, to extend support to our friends in those communities, to let them know they are in our hearts.

The Talmud tells us:

Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly, now.

Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.