Our Mission

*T’ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights* brings the Torah’s ideals of human dignity, equality, and justice to life by **empowering rabbis and cantors to be moral voices** and to lead Jewish communities in advancing democracy and human rights for all people in the United States, Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories.
Our Theory of Change

Rabbis and cantors reach millions of people through their public moral voices and through their leadership of Jewish communities, including synagogues, schools, camps, JCCs, and other institutions. We train and mobilize clergy in order to create a Jewish community committed to human rights and rooted in Torah and tradition. With our rabbis at the helm, Jewish communities are equipped to take collective action to make change and to build strong relationships across lines of difference.

By investing in rabbinic leadership, we invest in transforming our communities and our world.

Since 2002, T’ruah has organized and trained more than 2,300 rabbis and cantors in the United States and Canada to be moral leaders, guiding Jewish communities in protecting and advancing human rights both here and in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

This annual report looks at our year from October 2021 to September 2022. This was a year that included a dramatic spike in antisemitism around the world; an ongoing political crisis in Israel; an influx of refugees from Afghanistan and Ukraine; tens of thousands of people trapped at the US-Mexico border because of the shutdown of the asylum system; an assault on bodily autonomy; attacks on free speech; unprecedented threats to our democracy; multiple climate catastrophes, and more — all against the backdrop of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Throughout this challenging year, T’ruah’s two decades of training and organizing rabbis and cantors enabled us to rise to the difficulties of the moment and protect and advance human rights.
T'ruah at 20

In just 20 years, T'ruah has grown from the seed of an idea into an international organization representing over 2,300 rabbi and cantor members.

2002 A small group of rabbis forms the North American Rabbinic Cabinet in support of Rabbis for Human Rights/Shomrei Mishpat (RHR). The new organization is called Rabbis for Human Rights – North America (RHR-NA). Rabbi Brian Walt is the first Executive Director, working from his living room part-time.


2007 At a summer event in Washington, DC, RHR-NA campaigns to end state-sponsored torture.

2011 Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster leads the first of many groups of rabbis and cantors to learn from the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, a group of Florida farmworkers promoting a proven model for better working conditions, thus beginning a decade-long partnership.

2013 RHR-NA and RHR in Israel end their formal affiliation. RHR-NA is renamed T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

2014 Rabbi Susan Talve encounters a police sergeant in Ferguson, MO at an interfaith day of protest attended by more than 20 T'ruah rabbis from around the country.

2017 Twenty rabbis are arrested in front of Trump International Hotel during an act of civil disobedience protesting the racist and illegal Muslim Ban.

2018 On Tisha B’Av, T’ruah and our partners coordinate Close the Camps rallies in 56 cities across the country to demand that the Trump administration shut down migrant detention centers.

2019 Then-rabbinical-student Mango Hughes Robinson joins dozens of other Jews in occupying a Manhattan Amazon store to protest the tech giant’s contract with ICE, which uses Amazon technology.

2020 Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster and Barat Ellman join coalition partners in Albany to advocate for the HALT Act, which passed in spring 2021, severely restricting the use of solitary confinement.

2021 Within hours of the attack on the Capitol, T’ruah gathers our community to stand up for democracy. Over 800 people join us that night for prayer, words of wisdom from our rabbis, and to take action.

2022 Our Israel Fellows plant olive trees in a Palestinian village in the South Hebron Hills to replace trees uprooted by settlers.


2014 The first class of T’ruah Israel Fellows tours Hebron with Breaking the Silence; these future leaders get a close look at the realities of occupation.

2017 Weeks after Trump’s inauguration, T’ruah convenes an emergency conference for more than 200 rabbis and cantors to organize for the next four years of moral leadership.

2020 T’ruah rabbis and cantors are a visible Jewish presence at the Black Lives Matter protests of 2020, including this one in Washington DC organized by the Poor People’s Campaign.

2020 Rabbi Abby Stein addresses a group on hunger strike in Washington Square Park in support of the Fund Excluded Workers Act.

2018 Hundreds of Jews gather outside the ICE offices in New York City to protest the Trump administration’s inhumane treatment of immigrants.

2019 T’ruah brings delegations of rabbis and cantors to the southern border to bear witness to the horrific conditions there.

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In just 20 years, T’ruah has grown from the seed of an idea into an international organization representing over 2,300 rabbi and cantor members.

...and we will continue to shape what it means to be a rabbi or cantor in the years to come.
In 2022, we celebrated 20 years of T’ruah empowering rabbis and cantors to be moral voices and lead Jewish communities in advancing democracy and human rights in the U.S., Israel, and the occupied Palestinian territories.

**2,373+ RABBIS AND CANTORS**
led the charge for human rights.

**100+ RABBIS AND CANTORS**
from around the country joined our new communities of practice — cohorts organized around shared needs and interests, like antisemitism and racial justice.

**WE PUBLISHED 52**
inspiring editions of (M)oral Torah, a human rights d’var Torah series written by top rabbis and cantors from around the country, and read weekly by 3,000 subscribers.

**2,311 T’RUAH MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS**
took concrete actions with us to stand up for human rights.

**19 PROMINENT NYC RABBIS**
wrote to the Jewish Communal Fund of New York urging them to stop allowing donor-advised gifts to an organization that funds violent extremists in Israel.

**512 TREES FOR PLANTING**
purchased by T’ruah supporters for a threatened Palestinian village in the West Bank and a rooftop garden in West Jerusalem.
called their representatives to urge them to reject Title 42 and restore asylum.

Over 80% of rabbinical and cantorial students spending their required year in Israel participated in our human rights program.

7 INCREDIBLE NEW STAFF MEMBERS HIRED, increasing our ability to organize Jewish clergy and amplify the rabbinic moral voice.

Emor, the Institute for Bold Jewish Thought.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS GOT 1,357 MESSAGES from members of our community encouraging them to introduce and pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

6,000+ COPIES OF A VERY BRIEF GUIDE TO ANTISEMITISM helped Jews and non-Jews alike identify and respond to antisemitism.

150+ NEW MONTHLY SUPPORTERS joined the Shofar Society.

222 PEOPLE called their representatives to urge them to reject Title 42 and restore asylum.

1 NEW INSTITUTE LAUNCHED!
Emor, the Institute for Bold Jewish Thought.

450 CHAVERIM attended trainings on human rights issues.

...and so much more!
T'ruah made an impact in 2022.
WE FOCUSED ON
Building Local Power

We zeroed in on local human rights campaigns with our regional clusters of rabbinic rabble-rousers. Our Massachusetts cluster of chaverim turned up the volume on injustice through the #NoNewWomensPrison campaign. As members of a coalition led by formerly incarcerated women and their families, we organized to stop construction of a fifty-million-dollar new women’s prison in Massachusetts and to invest in communities most affected by policing and incarceration.

In New York, we stood with Brooklyn construction workers who faced retaliation for organizing to improve their working conditions, supported community-based alternatives to incarceration in New York State, and advocated for an end to solitary confinement in city jails.

We also began recruitment for Tirdof: New York Jewish Clergy for Justice, a new partnership between T’ruah and Jews for Racial & Economic Justice (JFREJ) Community, which launched in September 2022. Tirdof seeks to build power among local Jewish clergy and to foster a more vibrant culture of connection and organizing among our moral leaders.

With Truah’s support, Jewish clergy throughout Massachusetts are building power, deepening our connections to each other, and joining local communities to fight for an end to the incarceration of women and girls in the commonwealth.

— RABBI BECKY SILVERSTEIN, MASSACHUSETTS CLUSTER CO-CHAIR
T’ruah is a respected voice in the fight against antisemitism. We are known for our historically grounded analysis and for an approach that prioritizes deeper and broader relationships with other groups targeted by white supremacy, striving together towards collective liberation.

In FY22, we offered T’ruah staff-led antisemitism trainings for Jewish and non-Jewish nonprofits. We collaborated with Right to Be to create a training in Bystander Intervention to Stop Antisemitic Harassment, which hundreds of people around the country have taken.

And we LAUNCHED A Very Brief Guide to Antisemitism — distributing over 6,000 copies.

The Guide provides context, language, and tools to help navigate the difficult terrain around antisemitism. Rabbis, educators, and politicians have already reached thousands of people in their communities with this important resource.

In a world where criticism of Israel is so often equated with antisemitism, this guide is an invaluable resource! As a community rabbi, I need concrete tools just like this to more confidently lead and navigate tough conversations with my congregants."

— RABBI CLAUDIA KREIMAN, SENIOR RABBI AT TEMPLE BETH ZION, BROOKLINE, MA
I was drawn to the T’ruah Summer Human Rights Fellowship by the promise of combining rich, juicy, invigorating Jewish learning with an internship placement at a non-Jewish human rights organization. I had only worked in the Jewish social justice world before, and I felt that it was important to learn and gain experience outside of the Jewish bubble. I knew I would bring my Jewish identity wherever I went, but the non-Jewish placement was crucial to me.

I was placed at an organization called LA Voice, which is the Los Angeles affiliate of Faith in Action. It’s been an incredible experience. My first day in person, the other organizers were preparing to launch their Summer/Fall Power Campaign – the culmination of a several-months-long listening campaign.

They had over 2,000 conversations with people from 30 different congregations across LA County. During the launch, I was struck by the stories that were being told. The leaders that were speaking shared their own lived experiences of being unhoused, unable to afford rent, and making the impossible decision between affording groceries and medical bills. It was a good reminder of the importance of not just being in coalition with organizations that work with impacted people, but of actually creating community and building power with people who have lived experience.

That was just the first of many moments I’ve had this summer when I’ve thought: I’m so glad to be here.

— ALLY KARPEL
2022 T’RUAH SUMMER FELLOW, HEBREW UNION COLLEGE – JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION, CLASS OF 2026
From rabbinical and cantorial students to seasoned clergy across the country, T’ruah brings groups of Jewish clergy to the West Bank and East Jerusalem to meet with Palestinian and Israeli human rights leaders, and to bear witness to the occupation. Rabbis and cantors return to their home communities empowered to be stronger moral leaders on this issue.

Over 80% of rabbinical and cantorial students spending their required year in Israel participated in our year-long program, learning about human rights issues facing Israelis and Palestinians, while developing their rabbinic moral voices.

Simultaneously, the T’ruah Israel Fellowship offers a select group of six students the opportunity for intensive study, experiential learning, and cohort building.
T’ruah’s container is loving, supportive, and agitational in a positive way — it challenges us to do the real work, to ask the real questions, to face the true realities.

— ALIZA SCHWARTZ
2022–2023 T’RUAH ISRAEL FELLOW,
RECONSTRUCTIONIST RABBINICAL COLLEGE CLASS OF 2024

Before traveling to the South Hebron Hills with T’ruah, I knew intellectually that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank was unjust, poses daily indignities to Palestinians, and is as much a detriment to Israel’s security as it is to its soul. However, seeing with my own eyes the attempt to drive Palestinians out of Masafer Yatta, the rural area surrounding the West Bank Palestinian city of Yatta, brought the harsh reality home to my kishkes (my insides).

— RABBI BARRY BLOCK
CONGREGATION B’NAI ISRAEL, LITTLE ROCK, AK
Words create worlds.

Words expand our sense of what is possible and drive us to act. To tackle the most challenging issues of our day, we need courageous thought leadership grounded in Jewish text and tradition.

That’s why in September, we launched Emor, the Institute for Bold Jewish Thought.

Welcome to Emor, where Jewish sources old and new invigorate our commitment to human rights and propel us to action.

Emor | אמור (v): Speak!
We’re bringing together people from all corners of the Jewish community to ask big questions, study Jewish texts, and hold courageous conversations about today’s most important moral and political issues.

Welcome to emorinstitute.org
We convene scholars, activists, and artists to bring Jewish wisdom to the most pressing questions of our time, and then share what we uncover via essays, online courses, visual art, and more.

Emor is our response to the dangerous and well-funded right-wing Jewish think tanks pushing anti-democratic ideas into Jewish educational institutions, media, and communal discourse.

**We are fighting back by lifting up an authentic Jewish voice rooted in a commitment to equity, justice, and the dignity of every single human being.**

Rabbi Elazar said:

*How do we know that words are like actions? It says in Psalms (33:6): "By the word of God were the heavens created."*

*(Talmud Shabbat 119b)*
FINANCIALS

$2,728,839
TOTAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR

WE RAISED...

$1,155,064
IN TOTAL INDIVIDUAL GIFTS.

WHICH WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY
2,442 DONORS WHO MADE
6,344 DONATIONS.

150+ PEOPLE
BECAME MONTHLY DONORS.

$325,564
WAS RAISED FROM OUR ANNUAL GALA.

$963,400
CAME FROM INSTITUTIONAL DONORS.

AND

$53,924
WAS EARNED INCOME.

TOTAL NET ASSETS
FY21 $1,115,676
FY22 $990,476

The institutional funding total may differ slightly from our independent audit due to how multi-year gifts are recognized under generally accepted accounting principles.
PROGRAM EXPENSES

IN PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CATEGORIES

Salaries 64%
Rent and utilities 4.9%
Professional fees 10.1%
Postage 1.5%
Telephone & electronic communications 2.7%
Direct expenses 3.9%
Payroll taxes & employee benefits 6.8%
THANK YOU
TO OUR FISCAL YEAR 2022 BOARD MEMBERS

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Counseling, Hebrew Union College–Jewish
Institute of Religion

Rabbi Daniel Zemel
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Washington, D.C.
THANK YOU
TO OUR FISCAL YEAR 2022 SUPPORTERS

$100,000+

The Nathan Cummings Foundation
Anne Germanacos
Marc Gross and Susan Ochshorn
Righteous Persons Foundation
UJA-Federation of New York

$50,000–$99,999

The Morton K. and Jane Blaustein Foundation
Dorot Foundation
Walter and Elise Haas Fund
Sara and Andrew Litt
Vivian and Paul Olum Charitable Foundation
Open Society Foundations
Max Yaffe

$20,000–$49,999

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E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation
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Suzanne Marks  
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Jeffrey Fox and Mardi Mellon  
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Rabbi Janet Offel and Michael Nebezahl  
Mathew Nosanchuk  
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Rabbi Scott Perlo  
Jonathan Plasse  

Rabbi Aaron Potek  
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Dr. Robert Factor and Kristina Rasmussen  
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Only Truah bridges between clergy and the larger Jewish community, between Israeli and diaspora Jews, and between the worlds of politics and Jewish values. They draw upon the rich tradition of Jewish ethics and social justice to guide their advocacy efforts, making their work not just impactful, but deeply meaningful and spiritual. We have been proud supporters of Truah for many years and are even more convinced in today’s tumultuous world that a clear, prophetic, rabbinic voice is deeply needed. Truah is that voice.

— TERRY AND CAROL WINOGRAD, STANFORD CALIFORNIA
“I have been a proud T’ruah rabbi for many years, and joining the Shofar Society felt critical to me as a way to help sustain T’ruah’s essential work fighting for human rights on so many fronts: for immigrant justice, to end mass incarceration, against worker exploitation, against the occupation, and so much more. They are effective changemakers and the moral rabbinic voice the Jewish community so desperately needs.”

RABBI DANYA RUTTENBERG
SHOFAR SOCIETY MEMBER
CONCLUSION

Fiscal Year 2022 was a year of incredible growth and momentum.

As the world continued to turn its back on our most vulnerable neighbors and community members, we showed up in full force with courage, know-how, and rabbinic moral backbone.

We trained and organized more than 2,300 rabbis and cantors to speak up for human rights and human dignity. We called on the U.S. government to protect and expand the legal rights of immigrants. We raised the rabbinic moral voice in support of incarcerated individuals and alternatives to policing.

We sounded the alarm on far-right extremism and existential threats to democracy in the U.S. and in Israel.

We trained the next generation of Jewish moral leaders to lead their communities in working for human rights, here and across the globe — all in the midst of enormous upheaval in our public, personal, and spiritual lives.

This year taught us once again that our safety, freedom, and well-being is deeply intertwined — and that together, we can build a world our ancestors never thought possible.
Special thanks to Gili Getz for the use of his photography in this report.