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.
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.
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+** | **100+** |
| **RABBIS AND CANTORS** | **RABBIS AND CANTORS** |
| led the charge for human rights. | from around the country joined our new communities of practice – cohorts organized around shared needs and interests, like antisemitism and racial justice. |

| **WE PUBLISHED** | **19** |
| **52** | **PROMINENT NYC RABBIS** |
| 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. | 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. |

| **2,311** | **512** |
| **T’RUAH MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS** | **TREES FOR PLANTING** |
| took concrete actions with us to stand up for human rights. | 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.

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.

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.

450 CHAVERIM attended trainings on human rights issues.

1 NEW INSTITUTE LAUNCHED!
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.

...and so much more!
T'ruah made an impact in 2022.
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
WE EMPOWERED

Students to Fight the Occupation

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 אֶמֹר (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)*
$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

EXPENSES IN PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CATEGORIES

- Program Services
- Fundraising
- General and administrative

- Salaries 64%
- Professional fees 10.1%
- Rent and utilities 4.9%
- Telephone & electronic communications 2.7%
- Postage 1.5%
- Direct expenses 3.9%
- Payroll taxes & employee benefits 6.8%

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%
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$500–$999
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Rabbi Laurie Franklin
Debbie Friedman
Rabbi Shoshana Friedman
Rabbi Stacy Friedman
Scott Friedman
Rabbi Margaret Frisch Klein
Chelsea Garbell
Deborah Garber
David Gassman
Tim Gaylord
Rabbi Jonah Geffen
Chani Getter
Ross Gianfortune
Rabbi Philip Gibbs
Dr. Martina Gillen
Stephanie Glass
Lee Goldberg
Rabbi Ben Goldberg
Rabbi Susan Goldberg
Rabbi Daniel Goldblatt
Rabbi Barbara Goldman-Wartell
Judith Goldschmidt
Rabbi Elizabeth Goldstein
Claire Goldstein
Dorothy Goldstone
Rabbi David Goodman
Rabbi Maralee Gordon
Rabbi Yosi Gordon
Dr. Jeanne Gottfried
Helen Hadar Grabel
Rabbi Lauren Grabelle
Herrmann
Rabbi Lisa Grant
Melissa Gregory
Rabbi Suzanne Griffel
Rabbi Nadya Gross
Mercedes Gail Gutierrez
Helene Haapala
Jane Handler
Hadar Harris
Rabbi Maurice Harris
Rabbi Lindsey Healey-Pollack
Rabbi Lauren Henderson
Rabbi Elias Herb
Rabbi Floyd Herman
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Joseph Hillyard
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Rabbi Jocee Hudson
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Michael Hurta
Flaurie Imberman
Michael Jacobson
Rabbi Devorah Jacobson
Rabbi Jennifer Jaech
Rabbi David Jaffe
Joshua Jeffreys
Rabbi Randy Kafka
Robert Kahn
Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster
Rabbi Cassi Kail
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Meredith Larson
Rabbi David Lazar
Rabbi Esther Lederman
Rachel Lerner
Susan Lesser
Iain Levine
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Rabbi Marc Soloway
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Talia Stein
Randi Stein
Phillip Steinberg
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Ahouva Steinhaus
Rabbi Oren Steinitz
Rabbi Lisa Stella
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L. Suarez
Cynthia Sultan
Ilana Sumka
Leah Swiler
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Rabbi Elliot Tepperman
Glenn Teterton-Opheim
Jessica Thompson
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Rabbi Aryeh Tuchman
Ellen Tucker
Judith Tuller
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Rabbi David Vaisberg
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Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev
Stuart Warren
Rabbi Deborah Waxman
Bruce Waxman
Steven Weinberg
Jill Weinstein
Rabbi Samuel Weintraub
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.