

DEAR FRIENDS:

You are our partners in repairing the world—*tikkun olam*—and this immense task is more important now than ever. Attacks on democracy and human rights are multiplying around the world and within our own country. Assaults on women, LGBTI people, and religious and ethnic minorities are proliferating. Temperatures are warming, causing ever more catastrophic storms and droughts, and deepening poverty among the most vulnerable.

But even at this challenging—and often devastating—moment in history, we’ve made progress. Together, with Jews of diverse backgrounds and with people of other races, faiths, nationalities and identities, we are steadily building the world we want to live in—a world rooted in respect for the dignity of all people.

We tally up our progress every day. We measure it in lives saved, laws changed, and hearts and minds turned toward justice. We measure progress in the powerful movements that we are helping to build around the world: movements for women’s rights, movements to slow the effects of climate change, and movements to replace persecution and violence with democracy and peace. We measure progress in the increasingly large swells of humanity rising up to claim their rights and dignity as human beings and citizens of this planet.

“Jewish tradition teaches that if a person saves one life, it is as if they’ve saved the entire world. By that measure ... [AJWS has] saved the world many, many times over.”

—FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

We are gaining momentum.

In contemporary Jewish tradition, the idea of *tikkun olam* is all about building momentum. Through individual and communal acts of *tzedakah* (giving for justice) and *chesed* (acts of loving-kindness), we are progressively fusing the broken pieces of our world together, generating change. This image perfectly captures the life’s work of the activists AJWS supports in 19 countries. They are coming together by the hundreds, thousands, and tens of thousands—each doing their part to fight the brokenness in their midst. Gaining strength in numbers, they are fighting poverty, speaking truth to power, and changing the course of their communities and their nations.

By supporting this work through your *tzedakah* and your action, you are building momentum with us.

When we act on our deepest values together, when we refuse to be discouraged by the headlines or the setbacks, when we use the lessons of the darkest chapters of Jewish history to propel us to stand up for others—we are building a better world.

Thank you for your support of AJWS in 2018 and beyond.

With warm regards,



Robert Bank
President and CEO



Monte Dube
Chair of the Board of Trustees