



As the Canadian branches of the Reform Movement, we express great relief that Prime Minister Netanyahu has finally paused the government's plans for judicial reform. We note that this is in response to the tremendous demonstrations for democracy in Israel, which many of us have had the opportunity to support. We join the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR), Union for Reform Judaism (URJ), and American Conference of Cantors (ACC) in offering cautious optimism for coming days; no doubt, we continue to have deep concerns. Please read their response [here](#).

There are concrete steps that we can take:

1. Be informed. Read, watch, and understand what the issues are. Some resources include:
 - a. [Background on Current Issues in Israel](#)
 - b. [Israeli Values Religious Voices](#)
 - c. [Rabbi MK Gilad Kariv in the US](#)
 - d. [Rabbi Josh Weinberg's ARZA Weekly](#)
 - e. [Act Now for Israeli Democracy: A discussion with MK Rabbi Gilad Kariv, Orly Erez-Likhovski, and Rabbi Josh Weinberg](#)
2. The Reform Movement in Israel is under threat of losing financial support so we must help. An emergency campaign is now underway and any donation you can make will be extremely helpful. Please donate [here](#).
3. As Abraham Heschel said when he participated in marches for civil rights in the US, we must "pray with our feet". Apart from the demonstrations across Israel, rallies continue to be held around the world in over 50 countries. The diaspora initiative is called [UnXeptable](#) and is organized by Israelis currently living in countries outside of Israel, including across Canada. If you attend, bring an Israeli flag, or make a sign that says 'Save Israel's Democracy'. Note that we attend as Progressive Zionists.
4. Write to the various embassies and consulates of Israel across the country to express your deep concern. One easy way to do that is to use the [write-in form](#) provided by the Israel Religious Action Center.

Soon we will gather at our Passover tables. We traditionally conclude with the blessing, "L'shana ha'baah biYerushalim" – "Next Year in Jerusalem". Recognizing this troubled time in history, let's consider also adding from a place of love the refrain, "Next year in a free and democratic Israel."

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The **Reform Jewish Community of Canada** provides vision and voice to build strong communities that, together, transform the way people connect to Judaism and change the world. Our legacy, reach, leadership, and vision ensure we can unite thousands of years of tradition with modern experience to strengthen Judaism today and for generations to come. More than 20,000 Canadians are affiliated with 25 Reform congregations across Canada who are also members of the North American Reform community which has at its core the 850-congregation strong Union of Reform Judaism, or URJ.

ARZA Canada is the Zionist Organization of the Canadian Reform community. With over 8,400 members, ARZA Canada connects with Reform communities throughout Canada, fosters connections with and strengthens our ties to the Reform Movement in Israel, and works to realize the vision of Reform Zionism.

The **Reform Rabbis of Canada** brings together the spiritual leaders of the Canadian Reform community. We are the rabbinic leaders within the synagogues affiliated with the RJCC and are the voice of the Canadian Reform community.