



Welcome the stranger.
Protect the refugee.

A Rosh Hashanah Call to Action in Support of the World's Refugees

The wordless cry of the shofar stirs our souls. Its blasts pierce through our complacency and wake us up to the urgency of this hour.

The Torah demands of us to love the stranger. Today, then, we sound the shofar not only for ourselves, but also for those most in need of our attention and our protection. We sound the shofar for the 60 million displaced people around the world, including the 19 million refugees worldwide in search of a place to call home and the 4 million Syrian refugees seeking safety and freedom.

Tekiah. For the long and winding road out of Egypt, a road seemingly without end, that our ancestors walked thousands of years ago.

Tekiah. For the hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees who, in our day, have embarked upon arduous journeys, footstep by footstep, from Syria to Turkey, from Hungary to Germany.

Shevarim. For the desperate cries of our ancestors when they begged God for food to eat and water to drink, their spirits broken by the harsh wilderness.

Shevarim. For the cries of Abdullah, father of Aylan Kurdi, who joins broken-hearted parents throughout the world whose children have not survived the journey to safety.

Teruah. For the Jews of Spain and Yemen, Nazi-occupied Europe and the Soviet Union who trembled with fear even as they harnessed incredible strength to leave their homes in search of safety.

Teruah. For all those who tremble in the cold of night, asleep in fields and deserts and railway stations across the globe, threatened by those who wish to thwart their efforts to seek asylum.

Tekiah gedolah. The greatest tekiah of all – *ha'tekiah ha'gedolah be'yoter* – is when we rise up from our prayers and put words to this wordless cry. Let us use our voices to call out on behalf of those who are most vulnerable.

This Rosh Hashanah, we ask our nation to take bold action and resettle an additional 100,000 of the most vulnerable Syrian refugees. We ask our nation to increase the amount of humanitarian aid to the region to ensure that refugees are well-cared for while displaced from their homes. We ask our nation to address the root causes and prioritize the resolution of the crisis in Syria.

This Rosh Hashanah, we commit ourselves to welcoming the refugees in our community with warm embrace, helping to meet their basic needs and to ensure that they are able to rebuild their lives with dignity.

This Rosh Hashanah, we dedicate ourselves to learning more about the global refugee crisis so that we are better equipped to create a world in which everyone has a safe place to call home.

Tekiah. We call out with a steady and steadfast commitment to righteousness.

Shevarim. We call out, our link in the chain of history unbroken.

Teruah. We call out with voices unafraid.

Tekiah gedolah. We lift up our call together.

Tekiah gedolah is sounded.