A Sweet New Year for All

On Rosh Hashanah, as we gather with family and friends to celebrate the possibilities of the New Year, we dip apples in honey as a sign of hope for a sweet year to come.

With this crisp round fruit in our hands, we meditate on the potential for renewal in the year that lies ahead.

When we taste the honey on our tongues, let us be reminded of those who struggle to cling to the promise that a new year holds, of those for whom life is not always so sweet.

- The 4 million Syrian refugees who have escaped war and dire living conditions and the additional 7 million Syrian citizens currently displaced within their country’s borders
- Rohingya migrants at sea being turned away from refuge again and again
- The 60 million refugees and displaced persons around the world whose lives are in danger and who long to live free of fear

The apple, symbolic of the Jewish people’s deliverance from bondage in Egypt, calls us to remember what it was to be strangers in a strange land. Inspired by our history, will we heed the call to come to the aid of those now persecuted simply for being who they are?

As we dip our apples in honey this Rosh Hashanah, may we commit to doing one act in the new year in support of the world’s refugees. Through our actions, may we grow closer to a time of deliverance and renewal for all.

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