

Prayer for Our Country



HIAS Platform Pledge Rewritten as a Prayer

Rabbi Lauren Grabelle-Hermann of the Society for the Advancement of Judaism

In 2024, HIAS released a vision for U.S. immigration and refugee policy grounded in the values of welcome, dignity, and safety. Rabbi Grabelle-Hermann transformed the text of that vision into a prayer for our country.

We, as Jews from across the United States, share a vision for our country that values the contributions of immigrants, welcomes refugees, and upholds the safety and dignity of all those forced to flee their homes.

In a culture increasingly defined by xenophobia, fear, and misinformation, we pledge to stand firmly in solidarity with refugees and asylum seekers and to advocate for their rights and safety.

We call on all leaders to reject the politics of hatred and fear, to reject the impulse to seal our borders and turn on our own neighbors and community members. The challenges facing our country can instead be met with common-sense solutions. It's time to embrace welcome, safety, and opportunity, and it's time for action.

Our most sacred Jewish texts, which recount our community's history of persecution and migration, emphasize the importance of treating newcomers with kindness. In a moment when violent rhetoric against immigrants, Jews, and other populations is being used as a political tool, we know that the safety of all communities is intertwined, that our futures are connected. We were welcomed, we welcome others, and we will always stand for welcome.

May it be so.