

We Rise for Pittsburgh: A HIAS Reflection

We rise as we conclude a year of mourning.

One year ago, eleven people went to synagogue and never returned home. We rise to honor them.

We rise in body, mind, and spirit—in every way we are able. We stand with the mourners, their families, their communities, and our community.

We rise to stand with Pittsburgh. And with Christchurch, Poway, Colombo, El Paso, Halle.

We rise even as we continue to piece together our shattered hearts and we know they are forever broken.

We rise because when we are expected to cower, we will not. We rise because it is our only option in an unjust world.

We rise because in an era of incitement to hate-fueled violence, we can puncture the darkness with fierce light and love.

We rise because we are not alone even when we are singled out. We are stronger and safer when we stand together with all those who are oppressed.

We rise because when fear threatens to close us off, we will challenge ourselves to open our minds, our hearts, and our arms.

We rise because there are millions of people in need of safety and in search of freedom, and we will always stand for their rights and their dignity.

We will flood the streets, the synagogues, the halls of Congress, the courtrooms with our voices, our values, and our demands for a more just and compassionate world.

The world can only be repaired by connecting and building, not by destroying.

And, so, on the yahrzeit of a day we will never forget, we rise in grief and in action, standing together against hate, united in our message of welcome and love.