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Brit Olam: The World We Want Covenant

Reform CA, a project of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism

Our country faces a new reality, and the need for *tikkun olam*, world repair, is enormous. The normalization of bigoted rhetoric has led to increase in hate crimes and hate speech against Muslims, immigrants, low-income people, African Americans, LGBT people, women, Jews and others. There are proposals to deport immigrants, create a registry of American Muslims, reduce health care coverage to elderly and low-income people, curtail basic safety net programs for those most in need, increase the scope of mass incarceration, and roll back measures to combat climate change. We don't know which, if any, of these or similar proposals will move forward, but we know we must be ready to respond to the Torah's call to *rodeph tzedek* – pursue justice – and assert the importance of eternal Jewish values: equality, fairness, and the dignity of every individual.

In signing this *Brit Olam*, we clergy and lay leaders of _____ [congregation or community] in _____ [city] commit to form a team (or designate an existing team) with at least one clergy member (if our community has one) and two lay members that will lead the response against hatred and bigotry, and for dignity and fairness. We commit to lead this team and our congregation or community to:

- Take action in solidarity with vulnerable communities – Muslims, immigrants, low income people, African Americans, LGBT people, women, Jews and others
- Work to pass key proactive city, county, and state policies that model the world we want to build, in one of these five issue areas: criminal justice reform, health care, immigrant rights, climate change, and religious freedom
- Support the statewide and national campaigns of the RAC and the Reform Movement. This means weighing in on state and national issues and policies; taking up campaign actions when appropriate to our congregation or community; and sharing successes and challenges with other Reform congregations and communities
- Build relationships with congregations and organizations of other religious traditions, races, and classes than the majority of our congregation or community
- Create a culture of civic dialogue and discussion in our congregation or community where everyone, no matter the political party or perspective, feels valued and heard



The Religious Action Center pursues social justice and religious liberty by mobilizing the Reform Jewish community and serving as its advocate in Washington, D.C. The Center is led by the Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union for Reform Judaism (and its affiliates) and is supported by the congregations of the Union.



Reform CA, a state-specific project of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, in turn commits to provide our congregation or community with:

- **A variety possible actions and activities so our congregation or community can take up the actions most appropriate for us.**
- **Regular opportunities to receive training, the latest analysis of federal and state politics, and the sharing of successful congregational actions.**
- **An online space where Reform clergy and lay members across the state engage in dialogue and share best practices.**
- **Regular email updates with political news and analysis, as well as suggestions for actions.**

In keeping with eternal Jewish tradition of lifting up the fallen, healing the sick, and freeing the captive, we the undersigned agree to the aforesaid and commit to lead our congregation or community in collective acts of love to counter bigotry and the climate of hate and to advance Jewish values in the public sphere.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Role	Email	Phone

_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Role	Email	Phone

_____	_____	_____	_____
Name	Role	Email	Phone