



The Tzedek Initiative draws on Jewish values to promote social justice in many spheres. What is more emblematic for a call to action than the sight and sounds of the *shofar*?

We hear the sounds of the *shofar*:
The *tekiyah*, a long, loud blast to attention
The three short, broken blows of *shevarim*, simulating our cries
The nine quick notes of *teruah*, urging us to wake up

Maimonides (Moshe ben Maimon or Rambam), the great sage of Judaism in the twelfth century, said that the shofar commands: “Awake, you slumberers, from your sleep and rouse yourselves from your lethargy. Search your deeds, return in repentance.”

Jews the world over spend the Ten Days of Repentance, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, examining ourselves to determine who we have been, what we have done or not done, and how we can be better people. Traditionally, this period is a time of introspection to reflect on how to be a better individual, family member, neighbor, and friend.

This year let us reach beyond.

May the 100 blasts of the shofar open our hearts to the suffering we see around the world, expand our minds to learn about the causes of poverty, and drive us to seek solutions.

May our mouths speak out against inequity and to educate others.

May our hands embrace others, creating a human bond and lifting up the oppressed.

May our arms labor to build community and pursue positive change.

May our feet run to take swift action to join the fight against injustice.

Based on a source from the American Jewish World Service

In this New Year, may our individual responses to the shofar blasts help to bring about a more just society.



Rabbi Lucas' recent sermon on “*Tzedek, tzedek tirdof—Justice, justice you shall pursue*” is an inspiring call to action. We encourage you to view it. [Click here](#) or scan the QR code for the YouTube link.

