

## INSPIRATION FOR ADVOCATES

### *Prayer for Communal Leadership*

Blessed are You, Adonai our God, Sovereign of the universe, who hallows us with mitzvot, and commands us to work on behalf of the needs of our community.”

### *My Leadership Prayer*

I need strength, humility, courage, and patience.

Strength to control my passions,

humility to assess my own worth,

courage to rise above defeats,

patience to cleanse myself of imperfections.

And wisdom: to learn and live by our sacred teachings.

Let me not be discouraged by my failings.

Let me take heart

from all that is good and noble in my character.

Keep me from falling victim to cynicism.

Teach me sincerity and enthusiasm.

Endow me with perception and courage,

that I may serve others with compassion and love.

- Mishkan T'filah, p.336, adapted from Robert I. Kahn

### *From the Torah & Prophets*

Justice, Justice Shall You Pursue

- Deuteronomy 16:20

And you shall not mistreat a stranger, nor shall you oppress him, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.

- Shemot - Exodus 22:20

Learn to do good, seek justice, strengthen the robbed, perform justice for the orphan, plead the case of the widow.

- Isaiah1:17

And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not altogether remove the corners of your field ... you shall leave them to the poor and to the stranger

- Leviticus 23:22

....seek the welfare of the city [where I have sent you]...and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

- Jeremiah 29:4-7

God has told you, O people, what is good, and what Adonai requires of you: only to do justice, and to love goodness, and to walk modestly with your God

- Micah 6:8

But let justice well up like water, Righteousness like an unfailing stream.

- Amos 5:24

### *From other advocates*

If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."

- Lilla Watson, Aboriginal Activists Group, Queensland, 1970's

One must repeat from time to time: The world was created for my sake. Never say: What do I care about this or that? Do your part to add something new, to bring forth something that is needed, and to leave the world a little better because you were here briefly.

- Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav

The bosom of America is open to receive...the oppressed and persecuted of all nations and religions.

- George Washington, 1783

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### [Refugees and Sanctuary \(1985\)](#)

“We are instructed in the Holiness Code (Lev. 19:33) to take to heart the lessons of our own history by treating aliens in our midst with justice and compassion. **"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall do him no wrong. The stranger who sojourns with you shall be to you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself for you were strangers in the land of Egypt."** Judaism affirms the supreme value of human life and the equal dignity of every human being. The prophets of Israel bade us to pursue justice, seek peace, and build a society of loving-kindness among all of God's creatures.” **Union of Reform Judaism, Resolutions, Refugees and Sanctuary, 1985,** <https://urj.org/what-we-believe/resolutions/refugees-and-sanctuary>