

SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAELIS FOR JUSTICE AND EQUAL RIGHTS

The Social Justice Committee and Israel Peace Alternatives Group at Congregation Bet Haverim, in Davis California, stand in solidarity with the hundreds of thousands of Israelis who have taken to the streets to challenge the current Israeli government's reckless and dangerous attempts to drastically undermine the independence of the Israeli judiciary, the foundation of Israel's separation of powers and checks and balances, and eliminate legal mechanisms for the protection of minorities and the basic rights of Jews and non-Jews in Israel.

We affirm the statements by the leaders of the Union for Reform Judaism, the Association of Reform Zionists of America, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the American Conference of Cantors that Israel must be a place "where every citizen has justice and equal rights," a place grounded on "respect, diversity, and the safeguarding of democracy . . . for our people, and all peoples." The current government's proposals would make a mockery of those goals.

We unequivocally reject the intolerant, discriminatory, and bigoted statements by extremist members of the current governing coalition in Israel.

Each Shabbat, we pray that "Zion shall be redeemed through justice, and its inhabitants through righteousness." These are not rote and empty words. They describe what should be the essence of Judaism and Israel.

The current government's attack on the judiciary and any check on majoritarian abuses of power is tearing Israel society apart. It is damaging the security of Israel. It is alienating Jews in the Diaspora and democracies around the world.

These proposals must be withdrawn. Delay is not enough. The government's attempt to transform Israel into an anti-pluralistic and anti-democratic regime must end now.