

DEAR FRIENDS,

This year of dramatic upheaval has been unlike any other in our lifetimes.

As we write this letter, the COVID-19 pandemic has killed more than 1 million people and upended the lives of billions more worldwide, disrupting your life and the lives of people you know and love.

At AJWS, we understand from our 35 years of responding to humanitarian disasters that this pandemic is mapped onto a world already riven by conflict, oppression and inequality: The climate crisis is progressing at a breakneck pace, domestic violence is rising at alarming rates, authoritarian rulers are threatening democracies, and the forces of hatred grow louder, bolder and more deadly.

These are the fights of our time, and our time demands that we take action.

At this moment of crisis, our mission is more relevant than ever, with more people in more places needing us to take up our Jewish obligation of “*tikkun olam*”—repairing the world.

Thanks to your support, courageous activists and grassroots organizations in the 18 countries we serve are standing up to ensure that their communities have what they need to survive COVID-19—and they are building powerful social movements to fight injustice around the globe. And here at home, our Advocacy team is working to pressure the United States government to uphold our nation’s promise to defend—rather than trample—human rights around the world.

We are deeply committed to forging a future in which every person can live to their full potential in democratic societies with dignity and the full range of human rights.

Together with you, we are building a more just and equitable world.

We are proud to share this annual report with you, and we hope that the stories that follow will inspire you during these unprecedented times. Thank you for your support in 2020 and beyond.

With our deepest gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bank".

Robert Bank
President and CEO



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley Abelow".

Bradley Abelow
Chair of the Board of Trustees