

According to Jewish tradition, every year during the High Holidays — or Days of Awe — we devote ourselves to deep introspection. Through *T'filah*, prayer; *T'shuvah*, turning; and *Tzedakah*, justice, we have the opportunity to renew ourselves, consider how we can contribute to our local and global communities, and return to our commitments.

Here at NCJW, we are also reflecting on the ways we can create social change in the days and year ahead. One way is through our work to ensure an independent judiciary, insulated from partisanship and political bias. As we prepare for Rosh Hashanah, the US Supreme Court is preparing to begin its new term. Already the cases they have taken are of staggering importance, and they have yet to fill the docket. They include the fate of Dreamers, whether employers can discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and how strongly we hold the founding tenet of separation of religion and state.

Additionally, judges confirmed to lifetime seats on federal courts continue to have the power to impact almost every aspect of public policy. Daily, they make decisions about our health care, bodily autonomy, voting rights, the environment, law enforcement, and civil rights.

This Rosh Hashanah, NCJW will heed the call of the shofar and renew our commitment to address these and other critical issues. In 5780, let's work to ensure the federal bench reflects the communities it serves with diverse judges who will safeguard equality and justice for all. Together, our network of 90,000 advocates across the country will make change happen.

*Tefila, Tshuvah, Tzedakah* — these are the words we will say this Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, and these are the words we put into action every day as NCJW advocates.

*L'shanah tovah tikatevu.* Wishing you a sweet new year — *v'chatima tovah* — and a good inscription in the book of life.

Chag sameach,

Sheila Katz, CEO

Beatrice Kahn, President

*P.S. Please help NCJW continue to educate about the importance of federal courts and the judges who sit on them by supporting this crucial work.*

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