



AMERICAN  
JEWISH  
WORLD  
SERVICE

# Unetaneh Tokef—Challenging the Destiny of Hunger

*As we come together on the High Holidays, we look not only inward at our own deeds, but also outward at the world at large. We are part of a deeply interwoven global family for which we are all personally responsible. The hunger, poverty and disease that afflict our world are not an irrevocable destiny, but injustices that we can overcome. This year, as we aspire to achieve a better world, let us take responsibility for the more than one billion people living in hunger today.*

*B'rosh hashanah yekatevun, u'vyom tzom kippur yechatemun.*

*On Rosh Hashanah the future of the world is uncertain, and on Yom Kippur a new reality may be sealed.*

Will we stand by as one sixth of all humanity suffers from hunger and malnutrition? Will we ignore the cries of 25,000 people each day who lose their lives to hunger?

Or will we fight injustice and exploitation by planting the seeds for sustainability and promoting human dignity for people everywhere?

*U'tshuvah, u'tfilah u'tzedakah ma'avirin et ro'a ha'gezeirah.*

*Our actions can pave the way for this new reality.*

During the Days of Awe, and every day, we hold the collective power to change the world. As we reflect on the year past and the year to come, we must recognize our responsibility, hope for a better reality and pursue justice. May our prayers today inspire us to become agents for change, working to ensure that all people are guaranteed the human right to food and sustenance. May the shofar blast awaken our hearts and motivate us to forge a just world where none are hungry and all are inscribed for a lifetime of peace and fulfillment.