

ENDING MASS INCARCERATION

“...יְשִׁבִי בְּאֶרֶץ צְלֻמֹת אֹר נִגְהָ עֲלֵיהֶם.”

“...Those dwelling in a land of darkness—
a brilliant light will shine upon them.” (Isaiah 9:1)

“Alcatraz Cell Block D” by Danny Bradbury, Creative Commons license

America incarcerates more people than any other country--with 5% of the world population we have 25% of all prisoners. These people dwell in darkness: housed in poor conditions with insufficient health or mental healthcare, often charged for room and board, held in solitary confinement for years on end. The imprisoned are disproportionately, overwhelmingly poor people and people of color. As long as America wears this badge of distinction, we all dwell in a land of darkness. But light is coming, in the form of reform efforts led by a host of activists--currently and formerly incarcerated people, lawyers, families, faith leaders--across the nation. T’ruah is the major national Jewish organization tackling mass incarceration, through education and advocacy.

A Human Rights Reflection From Our Time

May the One who answered our brother Joseph in prison answer us.

מי שענה ליוסף אחינו בבית הסהר, הוא יעננו.

May the One who answered Miriam the Prophet when she was confined outside the camp answer us.

מי שענתה למרים הנביאה בהסגרה מחוץ למחנה היא תעננו.

May the One who answered all those Jewish generations imprisoned by hostile regimes answer us--and all those imprisoned in our land, in our day--and bring them forth from darkness into light.

מי שענה לכל דורותינו שנכלאו ביד המלכות, יעננו ויענה לכל הכלואים בארצנו בימינו, ויוציאם מאפלה לאורה.

Blessed are You ETERNAL ONE, who frees the imprisoned.

ברוך אתה ה' מתיר אסורים.

For more information and to get involved: www.truah.org/incarceration