



"It is not your responsibility to complete the work, neither are you free to desist from it."
Pirkei Avot (Ethics of our Fathers) 2:16

As a people who have experienced and understand the implications of being a minority, it is a defining value to speak out on behalf of the disadvantaged and work toward justice wherever possible. In the daily work of Jewish social service agencies, we serve many people who struggle with poverty, hunger, and lack of opportunity. Events that have occurred throughout North America and globally in the past year inspire us, once again, to raise our voices in support of social and economic justice. We believe that every person carries a divine spark within, and as such deserves dignity and respect. We believe that the path to a stronger community rests on building connections among us that promote collective strength, not isolation. This is the time to grow in understanding and compassion, and to act to address these concerns. Together, our actions will take root so that poverty, hunger, and prejudice no longer have a place in our communities.

As members of AJFCA there are many ways that you can act locally to address these concerns.

1. Start your board, staff, and management meetings with a statement or moment of silence against economic and social injustice.
2. Send out a written statement on economic and social justice that is tied in content and timing to a Jewish holiday.
3. Have your board adopt a position that supports economic and social justice for all members of our communities. Share this position with your local media.
4. Post this position and/or your agency's position on your website and Facebook and/or produce a short video clip about it.
5. Start a blog on the topic.
6. Hold a meeting with members of your diverse community to facilitate a conversation, networking, and action about economic and social injustice.
7. Join together with staff, board members, or other diverse members of the community for a walk of unity on behalf of social justice. Invite the press to attend.
8. Coordinate a unified and diverse prayer vigil with other members of the community.
9. Lend support to a local community building organization in some of their activities.
10. Include a reflection on justice in your group volunteering projects.