



# PESACH HAGGADAH SUPPLEMENT



At the Passover Seder, we spill a drop of wine at the mention of each of the Ten Plagues brought upon the Egyptians. We do so to symbolize that the joy at the Israelite's liberation from slavery is diminished by the suffering of the other, even if they were the Oppressor.

*Why?* Our Torah teaches that “When strangers sojourn with you in your land, you shall not do them wrong. The strangers who sojourn with you shall be to you as the natives among you, and you shall love them as yourself; *for you were strangers in the land of Egypt,*” (Leviticus 19:33-34). This year, let us think about the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently in danger of being deported from our land.



So today, as we gather with family and friends to celebrate this millennia-old celebration of the Exodus at our Seder Table, let us spill an 11th drop of wine for the plagues of deportation, xenophobia, and baseless hatred against our fellow human beings. Our celebration is diminished by the suffering and fear felt now by our undocumented immigrant neighbors.

As we pour our four cups of wine, and celebrate each other's company, we must be aware of the facts:

- Five million children live with one or both of their parents who are undocumented immigrants; 80% of these children are American citizens.
- 58% of undocumented immigrants have lived in the U.S. for 10 years or longer.
- Undocumented immigrants have a lower rate of commission of crimes than the average American citizen.
- Undocumented immigrants make significant economic contributions to our society; they contribute nearly \$12 billion dollars each year to state and local government through income, property, sales, and excise taxes.

The Jewish tradition obligates us to not stand idly by when we are aware of the suffering of our undocumented neighbors. Therefore, we have to be involved in our community.

#### ***How?***

*We must learn the truth* – and tell others: As a group, undocumented immigrants are hard-working, law-abiding, tax-paying long-time members of our community.

*Voice our opposition* – tell your elected representatives that you oppose mass deportation.

*Support the resistance* – use your resources to support those who are resisting: join a group, show up at a demonstration, and donate your time or resources.

*Act!* – Be the change you want to be in the community.