

Food Justice and Global Hunger Shabbat

“Hunger is a political condition, and though we have the resources to end it, what we really need is the political will to make it happen.”- Congressman Jim McGovern

Global Hunger Shabbat is a weekend of nationwide solidarity, learning and reflection around food justice. The learning and exploring of Global Hunger Shabbat is designed as a springboard into meaningful action over the following weeks and months, as we mobilize the American Jewish community in the fight for food justice. So what do we mean by the term “food justice”?

For Pursue, **food justice** refers specifically to the overlapping movements for justice at all levels of our food system, from workers across the food chain fighting for a living wage to communities both at home and abroad struggling to combat hunger, food insecurity, and limited food access. We are inspired by the people in our networks who are involved in many of these initiatives, from urban farming in low-income communities, to joining campaigns for food worker rights, to volunteering with peasant communities abroad.

Guided by the Jewish imperative to pursue justice and by the powerful notion of **food sovereignty*** that fuels this interconnected global movement, we believe in the right of local communities, whether in Detroit or rural Brazil, to both define and control their food and agricultural systems. We are interested in supporting efforts, both big and small, which contribute to the development of a just, equitable, and sustainable food system for all.

Food security, food sovereignty, and food justice are three aspects of the fight against hunger. Global Hunger Shabbat and the 18 Days of Action are a time to spend with your community to discuss ways in which we, as individuals, can create small changes in our everyday lives and broader systemic changes that advance food justice locally, nationally, and globally. See below for suggestions on how to get more deeply involved in food justice efforts locally, nationally, and globally, and fill in the blanks with opportunities you are aware of to share with your friends.

For further explanation of common terms used in food justice work, please see AJWS’s list of Terms and Definitions at www.ajws.org/hunger/ghs/ghs_materials.html.

Learn and Teach

Educate yourself and your community about domestic and global hunger.

- Learn about food access in your community:
 - How many full-service grocery stores are there? Where are they located?
 - Does your farmers’ market accept EBT? www.fns.usda.gov/snap/ebt/fm.htm
 - Take the Food Stamp Challenge! Can you live on the average weekly benefit of \$31.50? www.jewishpublicaffairs.org
- Learn about the U.S. food aid system and how we can reform it to make a better impact abroad: www.ajws.org/hunger/ghs/materials/0911_ghs_reforming_food_aid.pdf
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Adapted from a resource by Karin Fleisch and Dahlia Rockowitz for the 2011 Hazon Food Conference

**For more on food sovereignty, check out La Via Campesina, which coined the term, at www.viacampesina.org.*



Serve

Volunteer your time to support communities working toward long-term local, national and international food security.

- Read *Serving Broader: A Guide to Connecting Local Service to Global Justice*, www.ajws.org/hunger/ghs/materials/0911_ghs_serviceguide_v1.pdf.
- Volunteer at an urban farm that is both led by and serves a low-income community: www.growingpower.org
- Stock supplies at a local food bank.
 - Find a food bank: www.feedingamerica.org/foodbank-results.aspx
 - Glean for a local food bank: www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/content.htm
 - Grow fresh produce for a food bank or soup kitchen: www.ampleharvest.org
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Spend

Use your dollars to promote a just food system that protects livelihoods and provides healthy and affordable food for all.

- Join a CSA that has low income shares or workshares: www.localharvest.org/csa
- Purchase fair trade products, like Equal Exchange and AJWS's partnership, Better Beans www.ajws.org/hunger/better_beans.html and look for the Food Justice Certified Label www.agriculturaljusticeproject.org, for domestic fair trade items
- Eat at a restaurant that pays workers fairly. Look for the Tav HaYosher for kosher restaurants tavhayosher.wordpress.com and the Restaurant Opportunities Center www.rocunited.org
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Give

Be smart in your support of just food systems.

- Support organizations that are working to raise communities out of poverty and promote long-term food security at home and abroad.
- Ask organizations collecting food what they need most so you can donate effectively.
- Explore your personal giving commitments at Where Do You Give? www.wheredoyougive.org
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Advocate

Call on your decision makers to continue to fund vital food programs while working to reform them.

- Sign AJWS's Jewish Petition for a Just Farm Bill as part of the *Reverse Hunger* campaign: www.ajws.org/reversehunger
- Learn about local policy initiatives to support a stronger regional food system, such as New York's recent FoodWorks legislation www.foodsystemsny.org/taxonomy/term/286
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Pursue: Action for a Just World is a project of American Jewish World Service and AVODAH: The Jewish Service Corps. Visit www.pursueaction.org to learn more.