

Crisis in Darfur

A New Year for Jewish Response

Teshuvah: Repentance

"In a free society where terrible wrongs exist, some are guilty, all are responsible."

– Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Since early 2003, the Sudanese government and their proxy militia, the *Janjaweed*, have waged a genocidal campaign against the African villagers in the Darfur region of western Sudan. More than two million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes and over 450,000 people have died as a result of violence, hunger and disease.



Tefilah: Prayer

"You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to desist from it."

– Pirkei Avot 2:21

"...Forgive me, G-d, for remaining aloof while others are in need of my assistance.

Wake me up, G-d. Ignite my passion, fill me with outrage. Remind me that I am responsible for Your world. Don't allow me to stand idly by. Inspire me to act. Teach me to believe that I can repair some corner of this world.

When I despair, fill me with hope. When I doubt my strength, fill me with faith. When I am weary, renew my spirit. When I lose direction, show me the way back to meaning, back to compassion, back to You. Amen."

– Rabbi Naomi Levy, *Prayer for Overcoming Indifference*

Tzedakah: Just Action

"Justice, justice you shall pursue."

– Deuteronomy 16:20

College students are a powerful constituency. This year, reaffirm your commitment to social justice. Take action and help end the genocide in Darfur.

1. *Raise Awareness:* Learn more about the Darfur conflict and educate others by writing letters to your university newspaper, simulating a refugee camp on the campus lawn and posting flyers and posters.
2. *Organize Events:* Coordinate a program that engages students and creates a buzz on campus, such as a photo display, Darfur drum circle or candlelight vigil.
3. *Move to Action:* Take steps to demand an end to the killing. Find out more about what you can do to be a global citizen at www.ajws.org/darfur.

