

[Read this after the seder's Four Questions]



THE FIFTH QUESTION

Why is the Department of Defense letting military families struggle to put food on the table?

Each year at the Seder, we ask the traditional four questions. And each year, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger asks a Fifth Question to raise awareness about a particular hunger-related issue and spark important conversations around the seder table. This year, we turn our attention to currently serving military families and veterans experiencing food insecurity.

Across the country, currently serving members of our armed forces and veterans regularly turn to food pantries and distribution programs, sometimes in uniform, looking for help to feed themselves and their families.

While many emergency food providers have responded by developing specific and innovative programs to assist food insecure military families, most of these organizations are strapped by increasing demands for services in general and have limited capacity to address this population. **Our public officials must do more to address this unacceptable and long-ignored problem.**

[All read *The Fifth Question* together.]



YOU CAN HELP CORRECT THIS INJUSTICE

Visit mazon.org/military to email your Members of Congress and urge them to:

- **Demand more data from the Department of Defense** to provide a more complete understanding of the scope, characteristics, and determinants of the problem of food insecurity among military families and veterans.
- **Remove policy barriers now** so that currently serving military families who struggle to make ends meet are able to access the resources they need to put food on the table for their families. **Support excluding the Basic Allowance for Housing as countable income for the determination of eligibility for federal nutrition programs.**
- **Urge the US Department of Veterans Affairs to adopt a proactive response to this issue**, including implementing simple food insecurity screenings and referrals to SNAP and other resources that support access to adequate and nutritious food.