

MAZON'S FIFTH QUESTION

[Read this after the seder's Four Questions]



Why do we allow people who are struggling in America to be shamed?

Each Pesach we ask, why is this night different than all other nights? We should ask, why is every other night not held to the same standard - that all who are hungry come and eat? And to truly add insult to injury, why do we allow those who struggle with hunger to be shamed?

Shame is insidious. **Shame prevents Americans whose stomachs cramp with hunger from seeking out the benefits they are eligible for.** Shame erodes those very rights - when policymakers ascribe to it, they perpetuate it in the systems meant to protect the most vulnerable among us.

SNAP and other vital nutrition programs ensure that low-income individuals and families - totaling some 36 million - have access to nutritious food. Some policymakers characterize these nutrition programs as policies that make it "excessively easy to be non-productive." But this is the reality: most SNAP recipients who are able to work, do work. Most of those who are not working are seniors, people with disabilities or children. No one chooses a life of daily struggle. **And regardless of a person's situation, nobody deserves to go hungry.**



YOU CAN HELP THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY

Bill, a laid-off auto worker from Michigan, said "I don't think there's anything I could have done to prevent where I'm at today, because I did my job responsibly. I'm sure there are millions like me. I say to them, 'Don't blame yourself, but get involved with the political system because the people you put into office have a direct impact on food policy.'"

You can get involved by talking about this issue at your Seder tables and throughout the year. And, through MAZON's website, you can take action to protect and strengthen critical nutrition programs.

Together, we can transform *how it is*, into *how it should be*.