

# MAZON'S FIFTH QUESTION

Read this after the seder's Four Questions



## WHEN WILL THE NEEDS OF THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY COME BEFORE THE WHIMS OF THE POWERFUL?

**Moses stands before Pharaoh to demand, to reason, to implore: Let my people go.** Young and old, a whole community in the balance. Pharaoh considers, only to harden his heart and refuse Moses once again.

**It's high drama. It's compelling. And it's tragic. Everyone suffers, and suffers needlessly.**

**The millions of people experiencing food insecurity in our nation are challenged at every turn.** By the circumstances that brought this moment — a cut in hours at work, an elderly parent in need of care, a childcare disruption. By the litany of systemic issues that engender individual

hardships and generational poverty. By a global pandemic and climate emergency, impacting health and safety on an overwhelming scale. But we know these challenges could be softened with thoughtful, compassionate, and sometimes revolutionary interventions.

So together we ask, **when will the needs of those who are hungry come before the whims of the powerful?**

And this question surfaces more — who are the hungry, and who are the powerful? Is it whom we expect? And perhaps most importantly — what piece of this work lies in our hands?

## YOU CAN HELP THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY

Shelly from New York said, "Since I've been on disability after leaving the Navy, I've tried many times to apply for food stamps, but I keep getting denied. My daughter and her toddler live with me, and the government says that our combined incomes are too much to qualify for WIC and food stamps. **Somebody show me how this is possible. After paying rent and the utility bills — it's not enough to feed three people. I feed my granddaughter first. If there's not enough food in the house, I'll go without and I won't think twice about it. But it's not good for anyone to be hungry.**"

**The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly food stamps) is our best tool to fight hunger.** Now, we must redouble our efforts to not only preserve the program but to strengthen and fortify it to ensure that folks like Shelly can access this vital resource, particularly in the wake of the pandemic. You can get involved by talking about this issue at your Passover Seder tables and throughout the year. Visit [mazon.org](https://mazon.org) to join us in our fight to end hunger. **Together, we can transform *how it is*, into how it should be.**



# PURSUING JUSTICE WITH MAZON

Build a more just and compassionate community with us.



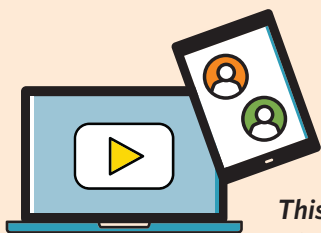
## GET EDUCATED

Learn the real story of hunger in America — who experiences it and how we can solve it as a community and a nation. Education is an essential and on-going part of engaging with MAZON, and the first building block of changing policy down the road.



## GET LOUD

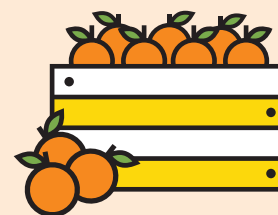
While charity is an important part of making sure people get food on the table, we need to work to change the system that allows people to be hungry. Advocacy moves us towards a future marked by justice.



## GET INVOLVED

*This Is Hunger* challenges you to question who struggles with hunger in America, and why. This powerful, immersive experience is now available digitally.

Our new **Anti-Hunger Synagogue Resolutions** provide a unique platform to commit your congregation to fighting hunger, structurally and with intention.



Join the **Hunger is Stressful** campaign, and help reduce stigma around hunger and food insecurity — starting at your local Farmer's Market.

Visit [MAZON.org](https://mazon.org) for details on these resources and more, or contact [outreach@mazon.org](mailto:outreach@mazon.org) to ask questions or get started.

Ask us  
about our  
virtual  
programs!

**MAZON** | A Jewish Response  
To Hunger