

# Sukkot: Gathering

No Holiday from Justice

## WHY SOCIAL ACTION ON SUKKOT?

Each Sukkot, we rejoice in the harvest and remember the protection that God provided our people as they wandered the desert after the Exodus. Within the temporary walls of our sukkah, we are reminded of the fragility of circumstance and our commitment to protect members of our community at times of great vulnerability, as we were. Together, we can recognize and break down the barriers for those who cannot enjoy the bounty of the harvest.

As part of the Sukkot celebrations, we invite friends and family into our sukkah to share a meal. Traditionally, we are told to extend an invitation to members of our community in need. Whether symbolically or more literally, Sukkot is the perfect time to consider who needs a seat at the table, and a meal on their plate. Our action and voices can bring the bounty of the season to far more people than we can fit in our individual sukkot.



## ACTIVITIES & DISCUSSION FOR ADVOCATES

- When you invite guests into your sukkah, ask them to participate in MAZON's SNAP meal planner activity. Together you'll learn how vital SNAP is to the families that rely on it, and how much work our community must undertake to strengthen it.
- Ushpizin (Aramaic for "guests"), traditionally biblical matriarchs and patriarchs are "invited" into the sukkah as honored guests; it is said that the ushpizin would refuse to enter a sukkah where folks who are poor were not welcome. Engage in the tradition of welcoming ushpizin by:
  - Sharing the stories of just a few of the millions of Americans struggling with hunger in your sukkah. Print and display MAZON's posters, each highlighting a different person, and featuring a question to spark meaningful conversation.
  - Working with your community to invite local elected officials into your synagogue's sukkah to have a communal conversation about hunger.
- Encourage your synagogue to share their "harvest" and make a commitment to continue supporting those who are food insecure throughout the coming year. What would a meaningful partnership with MAZON look like for your community?
- As we shake the lulav and etrog, we celebrate the sense of cohesion and community that binds us together. How does this feeling of unity strengthen our effectiveness as advocates?

MAZON encourages you to take action to fight hunger throughout the year. No Holiday from Justice activities can help deepen your experience of the Jewish holidays. To request materials, please call (800) 813-0557 or send an email to [outreach@mazon.org](mailto:outreach@mazon.org).

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is a national nonprofit working to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the U.S. and Israel.

**MAZON** | A Jewish Response  
To Hunger

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