

MAZON'S FIFTH QUESTION

Read this after the seder's Four Questions.



WHAT LESSONS FROM OUR HISTORY SHOULD GUIDE OUR NATION'S APPROACH TO ENDING HUNGER?

We begin the Magid with a formidable exhortation, "Let all who are hungry come and eat" — *this* is how we set the tone for telling the story of Passover. We cannot learn, we cannot celebrate, we cannot move forward in the seder if anyone is hungry. *What is asked of me in the moment? What will I do to ensure all who are hungry come and eat?*

Then the story of Passover begins not with Moses's birth, or even Joseph's arrival in Egypt, but with Abraham. We go back to the beginning of our history as a people and reflect. *How have the circumstances of our history shaped this defining moment of the Exodus and our present?*

On this night, we ask: **What lessons from our history should guide our nation's approach to ending hunger?**

TOGETHER, WE CAN TRANSFORM HOW IT IS, INTO HOW IT SHOULD BE

A staggering number of Americans struggle to put food on the table, that was not always the case. **We can end hunger** — and we almost did in the late 1960s when a robust government response led to 97% of households reporting food security. Political winds and policy changes reversed that victory, leading to an over-reliance on an already overwhelmed charitable food network. But that does not need to be our future.

We surface key truths when we engage with our history — when we take the time to reflect and understand its lessons. Hunger is part of our American history, and so are the solutions to it. Systemic injustices, hidden and exacerbated by a trend of blaming individuals for being poor, have throttled the strongest tool we can wield to reduce hunger: the government, and the sweeping benefits it can provide if unleashed. We can examine the way that harmful rhetoric transforms into policy — from the stigmatization of impoverished immigrants at the turn of the century to stringent work requirements on social safety net programs today.

We can challenge that rhetoric with the reality of who experiences hunger in America and why. This is our lesson. This is our work. And it is our celebration, too, when we **ensure inclusive, equitable access to nutritious food for all those in need.**



F.S.C.C. USDA



MAZON

A Jewish Response
To Hunger

Want to learn more? Tour MAZON's fully virtual Hunger Museum.
Visit mazon.org to join us in our fight to end hunger.