You can choose, you can act, you can transform the world.

— Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis
Dear Jewish World Watch friend and supporter,

As the Jewish High Holidays begin, we wish you and yours a sweet New Year.

Eleven years ago this Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis (z”l) envisioned Jewish World Watch, sounding the shofar to awaken our hearts, minds, and souls with the exhortation: “Close the book, open the newspaper!”

In the papers this year, we find a genocidal government in Sudan, a civil war raging in South Sudan, militias wreaking havoc in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, and conflicts dividing people into an “us” and a “them” in all corners of the world. During this most holy time of the year for the Jewish people, we must look outside the windows of our synagogue and confront the afflictions we see, whether they are next door or across an ocean.

Every day during the year, you can join Jewish World Watch in answering that call.

Together we answer it by advocating for Mariam and hundreds of thousands of other genocide survivors from Darfur who fled their country and continue to languish in grief, hunger, and dispossession, while still fighting to secure an education for their families.

Together we answer it by empowering Cikwanine, one of the hundreds of Congolese survivors of sexual violence for whom we provide medical care and job-skills training, so that they may create communities where they are accepted, protected, and valued.

Together we answer it by caring for Congolese youth like Erick, survivors in their own right whom we have helped to liberate from militias so that they can learn to build homes instead of destroy them.

This Rosh Hashanah we ask that you answer this call by rededicating yourself to the fight for justice. Rededicate yourself to those whom others seek to wipe from the face of the Earth.

As our wise, now departed, founder taught, “You can choose, you can act, you can transform the word.” Every New Year, we are called to this sacred humanitarianism. And you answer.

Wishing you a year of meaning and renewal,

Janice Kamenir-Reznik  
Co-Founder and President

William Bernstein  
Executive Director