It’s Passover 5776 …

WHAT’S ON YOUR PLATE?

This companion for the Passover Seder Plate is dedicated to the victims and survivors of the genocide and mass atrocities in Darfur, Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo.

REMEMBER

The six powerful symbols of the Seder plate which tell the Passover story of suffering, liberation, and renewal, also resonate in the context of the violence and despair in Sudan and Congo.

When we remember our captivity in Egypt, we ache for the child soldiers in Congo, the women forced into the status of “bush wives” for the militia and the backbreaking work of enslaved miners excavating conflict minerals…

When we consider the Hebrews’ flight from Pharaoh’s reign of terror, we cannot help but think about the genocide in Sudan and the Darfuris’ long walk to survival of a different sort…

We eagerly look forward to the day when the people of Darfur can rebuild their lives with renewed strength, hope and joy and the people of Congo can live in peace and prosperity. We ask you to help make that possible.
Karpas

This vegetable represents springtime and new growth. It is dipped in salt water, which is a reminder of the tears shed in slavery.

We cry with the women of Darfur who have buried husbands and children. We weep for the young girls in Congo who have been raped and abused at the hands of militias that use violence as a form of control over women and as a show of force over other men.

Tumaini Project

Many young girls in Congo, pregnant as a result of rape, cannot return home after medical treatment because their injuries require long-term care. Others, shunned by their families due to the stigma of rape, no longer have a home to which they can return. The Tumaini Project at Panzi Hospital’s Maison Dorcas provides housing for these young women and their babies, and serves as a place of refuge, comfort, and opportunity for training in a range of marketable skills. Tumaini (“hope”) replaces tears of despair with promise and opportunity for a new life.
The word “z’roa” means “arm.” The roasted lamb shankbone represents both the Passover sacrifice and the outstretched arm of God, reminding us to make sacrifices by reaching out and extending ourselves to others. The imagery of God’s arm is also used to teach that God made His presence known both to Pharaoh, to change his actions, and to the Hebrew people, to change their way of thinking.

Sons of Congo, a men’s mentorship program created by our partners at Un Jour Nouveau/Africa New Day, seeks to create systemic change for the protection of Congolese women by encouraging men to think differently about their family responsibilities. Working in small groups through a bible-based curriculum coupled with leadership training, thousands of Congolese men have learned to value and respect women. Sons of Congo helps men understand that their strong arms must be extended, not in anger, but in cooperation with the women in their communities.
These bitter herbs represent the bitterness of slavery, oppression and hatred. We do not just swallow the bitter herbs whole; they have to be chewed, tasted and experienced. After all, knowing about atrocities and oppression is only the beginning. To fight it, we, ourselves, must feel its bitterness.

Child soldiers, both girls and boys, have been forcibly conscripted on a large scale in the Democratic Republic of the Congo by armed militia groups. But unlike boys, girls are often stolen from their homes and forced to be “bush wives” for militias. BVES works to free these child soldiers from their captors, and provides them with transit housing while they locate their families or are connected with a foster family. JWW is currently collaborating with BVES to build a new girls’ center to house young women and children and provide them with psychosocial support, medical care, and education.
This mixture of chopped fruits and nuts reminds us of the bitter lives of the Hebrew slaves in captivity as they mixed the mortar for bricks to build storehouses for Pharaoh. We dip the bitter herbs in the sweet charoset to remind us that even in despair, there is hope. Where we see injustice, pain, and suffering, we must also look for hope, for a remedy, for a solution.

The Generation Hope program, implemented by our partner Un Jour Nouveau/Africa New Day, supports vulnerable children of Goma, North Kivu, by providing education, mentorship and spiritual leadership. Through this program, students — some of whom live unsupported on the streets of the city — come together for a comprehensive and holistic educational experience. JWW’s support allows for some of the most vulnerable children to attend school by providing school fees, uniforms, and materials necessary to attend school.
This flat unleavened bread symbolizes the bread, baked by the Hebrews in haste without even the time to rise, as they fled Egypt. So too did the Darfuri refugees, with little but what they could carry, flee from Sudan to neighboring Chad seeking safety for themselves and their families. We cannot eat this most basic food without being reminded that the refugees currently face another threat to their lives—widespread hunger from reduced rations.

Without a formal education system in the Darfuri refugee camps, young children are vulnerable to the dangers of the camp, often unsupervised, or cared for by their older siblings who then cannot themselves become educated. The Little Ripples program, first started by JWW’s partner iACT in 2013 as a school in the Goz Amer refugee camp, has expanded to other camps through a home-based model called “Little Ripple Ponds.” The program provides a safe and nurturing educational environment, as well as supplemental meals for the youngest refugees suffering from horrific food insufficiency.
The egg represents the rebirth that comes after mourning. It reminds us that even amid devastation, we can overcome tragedy, turn our lives around, and start anew — stronger than before. It symbolizes the continuity of life and the children who will be born, not as slaves, but free to pursue a better life.

Hundreds of thousands of Congolese children, orphaned, abandoned or once forcibly recruited into armed groups, are left living on Congo’s dangerous streets, impoverished and vulnerable to violence. JWW, in partnership with LAV, sponsors these at-risk children and promotes the reintegration of former child soldiers, many of them girls, by providing them with medical and psychosocial care, basic education, vocational and professional skills training. While there is still much injustice and suffering, LAV offers hope and a solution to a new Congo.
We have re-introduced the six symbols of Passover to show you how they correspond to the people your activism and participation support through our projects.

We embrace the opportunity to work with you to help bring about liberation.

Because if not us, then who? And if not now, when?

ADD THIS TO YOUR PLATE ... PASSEOVER IS A TIME TO TAKE ACTION.

• Go to jww.org to learn about how you can take action.
• Form, donate to or join a team to Walk to End Genocide.
• Participate in our email campaigns. Spread the word about these projects on social media.
• Meet with your elected officials and educate them about the people benefitting from our projects.

Above all, Do Not Stand Idly By!

jww.org  |  818.501.1836
YOU CAN CHOOSE, YOU CAN ACT, YOU CAN TRANSFORM THE WORLD.  — Rabbi Harold M. Schulweis

With your support, JWW can continue to mobilize our communities and work to end genocide and mass atrocities worldwide. The following donations can provide:

- **$1,800** Fund six months’ vocational skills trainer salary in the *Tumaini Project*.
- **$1,000** Supports *BVES’* effort to build a new girls’ center.
- **$750** Funds the building of one *Little Ripples Pond*.
- **$500** Helps *Sons of Congo* provide their training curriculum to 125 men.
- **$360** Buys two sewing machines for graduates of *LAV’s* training program.
- **$180** Covers annual school fees for a high school student in *Generation Hope*.
- **$____** Your generous gift in any amount will do a *World* of good.

DONATE NOW