

Sermon Tip Sheet – September 2022

The High Holy Days are considered an important period of stock-taking and reflection. René Cassin has gathered some statistics pertaining to some of our social justice campaigns that might prove useful when reflecting on the past year. We have also included some phrasing examples for articulating the kind of just and compassionate world we would like to take a step further towards next year.

On the Right to Food:

- Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed over 2.1 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis. This is an increase of 14% compared to the same period in 2019/20. 832,000 of these parcels went to children. ([Trussell Trust, 2021](#))
- The Trussell Trust's food bank network provided 936,000 emergency food parcels to people in crisis between April and September 2021. ([Trussell Trust, 2021](#))
- Jewish charity GIFT report sending out over 9,000 hot meals to the elderly and vulnerable over the height of the pandemic, sending out food parcels worth over a total of £170k ([GIFT, 2021](#))

Articulating our Vision:

Despite being one of the richest countries in the world, nearly 8.4 million adults and children living in the UK struggle to access the food they need. The COVID-19 pandemic has contributed to a sharp rise in these figures.

With a rich heritage of food, agriculture, and equality, we believe that the Jewish community should be taking leading steps towards ensuring that the right to food can be enjoyed by all.

Our government could take a legislative lead on making this happen; improving welfare provision, free school meals and rethinking the No Recourse to Public Funds framework.

At René Cassin, we are working alongside activist groups, policymakers and Jewish leaders to make progress on realising the right to food. Access to the food you need should be a human right. We are working to make that a reality. We will continue to bolster this vision in the new year.

Helpful resources:

René Cassin has many Recipe for Rights resources full of content linking Jewish values with the Right to Food, find them [here](#), together with campaign updates and other helpful information.



Women's Rights:

- In 2021 at least 141 UK women were killed by men (or where a man is the principal suspect); an increase on the previous two years. ([EVAW, 2021](#))
- Latest ONS crime figures for the 12-month period ending in September 2021 show that sexual offences recorded by the police were the highest on record, at 170,973 offences. This is a 12% increase from the same period in 2020. ([EVAW, 2021](#))

- Nearly 2,000 officers faced accusations of sexual wrongdoing since 2017. Over 60% did not result in disciplinary action. Just 8% were dismissed. Nearly 300 officers had previously been reported for misconduct. ([EVAW, 2021](#))

Articulating our Vision:

In this new Jewish year, we will we will support organisations who promote women's safety both in public and private life. We will back pieces of legislation that make women's safety tangible and we will continue to make clear the links between Jewish values and women's safety. In mid-December 2021, seminal feminist thinker bell hooks passed away, leaving an astonishing legacy of feminist thinking. In her book *Feminism is for Everybody*, she articulates her vision of a world in which women and their allies are able to "create beloved community, to live together, realizing [our] dreams of freedom and justice, living the truth that we are all "created equal." She ends by asking us to "come closer".

In line with our Jewish tradition propelling us towards justice, and in line with years of feminist thinking and action, we will heed this call together - promoting women's safety so we may move closer towards communion and human rights for everyone.

Helpful resources:

We have a wide range of resources linking women's rights and Jewish values. You can find them [here](#).

Disability Advocacy:

- Around four in ten disabled people are cutting back on food and essentials, latest [data](#) from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) suggests. The ONS survey revealed that almost half of disabled people have made such cuts, compared to a third of non-disabled people. ([Disability Rights UK, 2021](#))
- After housing costs, the proportion of working age disabled people living in poverty is 27%. Which is higher than the proportion of working age non-disabled people at 19%. ([Scope, 2021](#))

Articulating our Vision:

In 1958, as Chair of the United Nations Commission drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Eleanor Roosevelt gave an address titled 'Where do Human Rights Begin?'. For her, as for so many of us, human rights begin in small places, close to home.

One of our commitments for this new Jewish year is to explore those places in which human rights begin for us – the organisations, projects and charities working in settings close to home, to support and advocate for people too often left out of welfare and safety provisions. We will listen to, and work with, those who have been directly impacted by discrimination. We will find opportunities to platform work and their visions for places close to home just like the ones described by Elanor Roosevelt – as places where every person seeks equal opportunity, and dignity without discrimination.

Helpful resources:

We have a wide range of resources linking disability rights and Jewish values. You can find information and links to past talks on Disability rights [here](#), and wider information about disability rights [here](#).