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1/2



Unprecedented Joint Call From Chief Rabbis of the World for Jewry to Unite This Shabbos

By Hamodia Staff | Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 6:57 am | ח' ניסן תש"פ

Chief Rabbis from across the globe have today called for world Jewry to unite and keep this Shabbos to support one another and pray for each other's welfare.

KeepingItTogether is a call to unite the Jewish community worldwide in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions that have been brought into play to protect everyone's welfare. The united call is from the Chief Rabbis of Israel, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, Argentina, South Africa, Moscow, Rome, Brussels, as well as the Conference of European Rabbis.

In a signed letter, the coalition of Jewish leaders urges the global Jewish community to use this Shabbos, *Shabbos Hagadol*, as an opportunity to tap into the transformative power of Shabbos and to unite in the face of the current crisis.

The Chief Rabbis are calling on Jews in every corner of the globe to:

1. Call or message each other with words of support before Shabbos;
2. Pray for each other, and all humankind just before candle-lighting;
3. Keep this Shabbos together.

Each of these three actions is intended to have a far-reaching impact and to connect the global Jewish community, while at the same time, calling on world Jewry to uphold the vital social distancing measures set out by world governments and health authorities.

Chief Rabbi Dr. Warren Goldstein of South Africa said: "The unprecedented nature of the crisis that COVID-19 has caused requires an unprecedented show of unity. This is the first time that there has been a joint call of Chief Rabbis on this level, united in our message for world Jewry to come together in support of one another. We urge organizations all

An open letter from the Chief Rabbis of the world

Amos 1:10
April 2020

This Shabbat - the Shabbat before Pesach - is called Shabbat HaGadol, the Great Shabbat. It was first celebrated at the birth of the Jewish people, moments before the dawn of our deliverance from Egyptian slavery.

Every Jewish family, alone in their homes in Egypt, sat fervently anticipating the united dream of deliverance and redemption.

1200 years later, this Shabbat HaGadol was once again, indeed to our own homes, once again united in our fervent prayer for redemption from the global pandemic that has shaken our world to its core.

We call on Jews around the world to adhere to Shabbat HaGadol a Shabbat of kindness, a Shabbat of prayer and a Shabbat of connection to the Divine - tapping into the transformative power of Shabbat.

We call on Jews in every corner of the globe to do these three things:
Call or message each other with words of support before Shabbat

In our Jewish global quest to protect each other, we find ourselves physically cut off from one another in many of us are completely alone. Call or message someone you know who is alone or struggling, with them Shabbat Shalom and offer them words of support and encouragement. There is no such thing as a free lunch - but let's not underestimate the power we have to uplift, encourage and support one another.

Pray for each other just before candle lighting
In the dissemination of COVID-19 across the world, so many people need our prayers. Let us pray to our Father in Heaven together - for each other and all humankind.

Keep this Shabbat together
Let us bring this Shabbat into our homes together and harness its irreparable inspiring power. Let us connect to light and love and disconnect from the relentless news cycle for a precious 15 hours. Let us sit on our knees with the radiant light of Shabbat and its spiritual, let us experience of Almighty's sovereignty over the world, and let his loving embrace, as we recite Kiddush together. Let us make Shabbat, get away our keys, drop our stuff, switch off all electronics, eat, drink, pray and dream together.

This is a time for us to rally together in unity. This is a time for us to be together - to welcome Shabbat in together - as one people with one heart.

May we all find comfort and strength in Shabbat and each other.
May it be a Shabbat HaGadol - a Great Shabbat - in the fullest sense of the words.

And may it be a time of health and healing to the world.



www.KeepingItTogether.world #UniteWithPrayer





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2/2



over the world to work together so that we can emerge from this incredibly challenging time stronger than ever. This alliance of Chief Rabbis will be going forward continue to work together in partnership to make the world into a better place.”

Chief Rabbi Riccardo Di Segni of Rome said: “Over the last few weeks we have witnessed first-hand the devastation that COVID-19 can cause. In Italy, our community is [in] mourning and many people have been unwell, we must support each other to find a way through this crisis. I would urge every Jew to support their community and take this opportunity to reach out and show solidarity to one another. We are blessed to have Shabbat and the more special we can make it for ourselves and our households the more strength we will get from it to fight this virus.”

<https://hamodia.com/2020/04/02/unprecedented-joint-call-chief-rabbis-world-jewry-unite-shabbos/>

