

As we approach the time when we recall our own slavery in Egypt, most rabbis and congregations will be incorporating a prayer for the approximately 27 million people enslaved today. Many will acknowledge this tragic and shameful fact at the Seder table.

**At this time we also have an unprecedented opportunity to act to end slavery in Israel.**

DEMAND: It is estimated that tens of thousands of buyers frequent the many brothels and “discrete apartments” each year in Israel. Many men utilize the numerous out-services. ATZUM (Task Force on Human Trafficking) is leading the way to secure legislation to end the demand for paid sex in Israel. As Sweden has shown the world, this is the most effective way to stop the trafficking of human beings. Without demand there is no supply.

Most political leaders and parties and Israeli citizens support the solution of ending demand to end the sale of human beings for sex. Enslavement, torture, gender inequality and class/race discrimination are a just a few of the evils fostered by human trafficking for sex.

The influence and support of North American Jews is crucial to the success of this legislative initiative. We have an opportunity to take part in modern Israel's freedom movement. We can counter the entitlement to sex on demand by ensuring human beings are not for sale- by law.

Rabbi Levi Lauer, Executive Director of ATZUM ([www.ATZUM.org](http://www.ATZUM.org)), has asked for our help. A show of support for legislation that targets demand will have a profound influence on Knesset members and government leaders. Financial assistance is needed in order to move quickly through the legal process. We cannot wait years as more and more victims' lives are destroyed. The law ending the right to buy a woman or man could pass in 18 months. This is only possible with a strong lobbying effort to move the bill quickly through the process.

Please join other Jewish abolitionists in supporting the work of ATZUM. This is what is needed:

1. Would you and your congregation sign a letter supporting a bill that targets demand? The law would make it a crime to buy sex while the prostituted person would not be criminalized. The law reflects the realities of each role played in human trafficking: the trafficker/pimp who has all the power and control, the buyer who makes a free choice and, the powerless victim enslaved by threats and violence.

2. ATZUM needs an additional \$20,000 for lobbying costs. I have raised two thousand dollars. We now need a *chai* of \$18,000. The donation is tax deductible and specifically intended for lobbying efforts. Are there 360 Jews to give \$50? Are there 180 individuals to give \$100? Only 18 to give \$1,000? Surely, we can raise this money together and make Israel a beacon of light where sexual slavery is no more.

Please consider your role in ending human trafficking in Israel. If you would like further information on the proposed law, human trafficking issues or Sweden's law, please contact me. If you will contribute towards the ATZUM lobbying efforts, please go to Network for Good or send a check to:

ATZUM (Task Force on Human Trafficking)  
PO Box 252  
Youngsville, NY 12791

Please contact me if you are willing to support ATZUM by circulating a letter and/or by making a financial contribution. With each passing day another young life is destroyed by the demand for paid sex in Israel.

Thank you and best wishes for a joyous *Hag Pesah*, a time we pray that will see the freedom of all Israel and all who are enslaved in our midst.

Peggy Sakow  
For ATZUM