

JUBILEE WEEKEND 2019

THE CAUSE OF THE POOR AND NEEDY

"He defended the cause of the poor and needy, and so all went well. Is that not what it means to know me?" declares the LORD."

- Jeremiah 22:16

Dear Friends,

This year, Congress is considering the Corporate Transparency Act (H.R.2513), a bill that would help fight poverty and corruption in some big ways.

This bill will create a registry of the true owners of corporations so that law enforcement can stop anonymous shell companies from stealing money from low-income countries, evading taxes, laundering money, and engaging in human and drug trafficking and terrorism.

By asking companies to reveal their beneficial owners, Congress can close a loophole allowing bad actors to commit financial crimes and perpetrate human rights abuses.

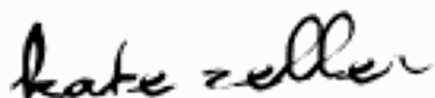
This Jubilee Weekend, we pray for an end to these injustices. We call upon Congress to swiftly take action and shine a light on this darkness in our financial system.

Included in this guide are sample prayers, relevant scriptures, action guides and other resources to help you plan your Jubilee Weekend. We welcome you to adapt any of the following materials for your tradition. We invite you to simply be inspired by these examples and let G-d move your congregation to pray and act for a Jubilee. These materials are for use at the time Jubilee Weekend is celebrated nationally or any time during the year.

For questions or further resources, please contact us at outreach@jubileeusa.org.

Thank you for helping us proclaim Jubilee and shine a light on the darkness in our financial system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "kate zeller". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "kate" in lowercase and the last name "zeller" in lowercase.

Kate Zeller
Campaign Director, Jubilee USA
kate@jubileeusa.org

PRAYERS

Responsive Prayer

Leader: For those who live in poverty, that we may see their needs and that G-d may be with us as we respond to them. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Oh Lord, shine your light in the darkness!

Leader: For the victims of human trafficking, that they may find healing and justice. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Oh Lord, shine your light in the darkness!

Leader: For the countries who lose valuable resources to theft hidden by shell companies, that we may stand in solidarity with them to support strong financial protections. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Oh Lord, shine your light in the darkness!

Leader: For our legislators in Congress, that they may courageously act to stop the abuses hidden by shell companies. Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Oh Lord, shine your light in the darkness!

Prayer for Justice

Eternal G-d, we pray for the millions in this country struggling under the burden of student loan debt. We pray that you remember them and help them. We call on you to help us build a better world, one where all have access to education and none are enslaved in the pursuit of knowledge.

Prayer for Poor Nations

Merciful G-d, we know that you see the pain and hunger around the world. Those cast into poverty and chaos in Mozambique after the devastation of two cyclones this year, those in Somalia seeking to build a better life after decades of war and unrest and breaking under the weight of billions in debt, and all other countries without the resources to unleash the potential in their people. We pray for debt forgiveness. We pray for a new start.

Prayer of Hope

Loving G-d, many places in the world are bearing a disproportionate burden of the effects of climate change. We have seen unprecedented destruction in the Bahamas and have watched with grief as Puerto Rico struggles to recover from Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Please bless these places and the world to help them rebuild and recover.

SCRIPTURES

Christian

The Old Testament

"You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another." Leviticus 19:11 (NRSV)

"For his eyes are upon the ways of mortals, and he sees all their steps. There is no gloom or deep darkness where evildoers may hide themselves." Job 34: 21-22 (NRSV)

Psalms 112:1-4; 119:105; 146:7-9

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Psalm 119:105 (NRSV)

Proverbs 10:2; 21:6; 14:31; 22:16

"He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Prov. 14:31 (RSV)

Isaiah 42: 6-7; 49: 6; 51: 4-5; 58: 6-10; 61:1-2

"I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness." Isaiah 42:6-7 (NRSV)

Ezekiel 18:7-9

"Thus says the Lord, 'For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not revoke the punishment; because they sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals - they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way...so that my holy name is profaned '" Amos 2:6-7 (NRSV)

Micah 6:8

The New Testament

Luke 4:17-19; 8:17; 16:13

John 8:12

Ephesians 5:8-11

"Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them." Ephesians 5:11 (NRSV)

1 Timothy 6:9-10

1 John 1:5-7

SCRIPTURES

Jewish

Torah

"You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; and you shall not lie to one another." Vayikra 19:11

Nevi'im

Yeshayahu 42: 6-7; 49:6; 51:4-5; 58:6-10; 61:1-2, 8

"I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes of the blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness." Yeshayahu 42:6-7

"For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make everlasting covenant with them." Yeshayahu 61:8

Yehezq'el 18:7-9

"They sell the righteous for silver, and the needy for a pair of sandals - they who trample the head of the poor into the dust of the earth, and push the afflicted out of the way...so that my holy name is profaned '" Amos 2:6-7

"Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." Amos 5:24

"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" Mikhah 6:8

Ketuvim

Tehillim 112:1-4; 119:105; 146:7-9

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." Tehillim 119:105

Mishlei 10:2; 21:6; 14:31; 22:16, 22-23

"He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for their Maker, but whoever is kind to the needy honors God." Mishlei 14:31

"Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the Lord pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them." Mishlei 22:22-23

"For his eyes are upon the ways of mortals, and he sees all their steps. There is no gloom or deep darkness where evildoers may hide themselves." Iyyôbh 34: 21-22

SCRIPTURES

Muslim

Qur'an

9:60 *"The alms are only for the poor and the needy, and those who collect them (for distribution), and those whose hearts are to be reconciled (resettlement of families, refugees etc), to free captives (slaves etc) and the debtors in need, and for the cause of Allah and the needy travelers; a duty imposed by Allah. Allah is Knower, Wise."*

2:282 *"O you who believe, when you transact a loan for any period, you shall write it down. An impartial scribe shall do the writing. No scribe shall refuse to perform this service, according to Allah's teachings. He shall write, while the debtor dictates the terms. He shall observe Allah his Lord and never cheat. If the debtor is mentally incapable, or helpless, or cannot dictate, his guardian shall dictate Equitably."*

4:75 *"And what is wrong with you that you fight not in the Cause of Allah, and for those weak, illtreated and oppressed among men, women, and children, whose cry is: "Our Lord! Rescue us from this town whose people are oppressors; and raise for us from You one who will protect, and raise for us from You one who will help."*

5:16 *"Whereby Allah guideth him who seeketh His good pleasure unto paths of peace. He bringeth them out of darkness unto light by His decree, and guideth them unto a straight path"*

59:07 *"That which Allah giveth as spoil unto His messenger from the people of the townships, it is for Allah and His messenger and for the near of kin and the orphans and the needy and the wayfarer, that it become not a commodity between the rich among you."*

ACT NOW

As part of your Jubilee Weekend service or event we invite you to take action with us to build an economy that serves, protects and promotes the participation of the most vulnerable.

If you belong to a faith community that chooses not to participate in these actions on a day of worship, you can schedule a time to act as a small group that is appropriate within your faith tradition. The following paragraphs and pages detail different ways you and your faith community can get involved. Find something that works for you here, or use these resources as a guide to create something new. Whatever you do, don't hesitate to contact us for help, and please let us know how it goes! Please send any event pictures to outreach@jubileeusa.org.

Sign our Petition

Print out the petition sheets included at the end of this guide and pass them around to your congregation or send out the web link to our online petition in your congregation newsletter. You can also plan an information meeting on the issue with your congregation or those interested in your group. Inform them about the petition and Jubilee USA using the educational materials provided in the following pages.

If you printed the petition, please send the completed pages to Jubilee USA at:

Jubilee USA Network
212 E Capitol St. NE
Washington, D.C. 20003.

Contact Your Representatives

Jubilee USA is constantly helping educate decision makers on economic issues that affect the poor. Organize a time with your faith group to visit our website. Send emails or pick up the phone and call your representatives to let them know that economic justice is important to you.

Please visit http://www.jubileeusa.org/act_now to see how you can help. Sending this link out to your faith community or as part of an email newsletter can also be an excellent way to get your congregation involved.

PLAN AN EVENT

Plan an event with your faith group to discuss the importance of the Corporate Transparency Act and its consequences for global economic justice. This is also a great time to pray for the poor and victims of human trafficking.

This year, we are encouraging congregations to light candles as a way to symbolize our work and shine light on the abuses of shell companies as well as our goal of corporate transparency. Lighting candles can be a great way to accompany prayer for the Corporate Transparency Act during your event or during your service. If you choose to light candles or hold another type of event, please send us pictures to outreach@jubileeusa.org so that we can share them with Congress.

Additionally, we have postcards at the end of this packet, where you can write prayers or support for the Corporate Transparency Act after your service or at your event. These postcards can serve in lieu of petitions to urge your Congresspeople to take action. Please send them to us at:

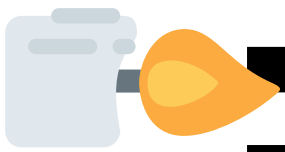
110 Maryland Ave, NE, Ste 210
Washington, DC 20002

We encourage your congregation to combine discussion, prayer, action, and education as you see fit.

Other things to keep in mind when planning an event:

- Let your local press know what you have planned. Many smaller local papers are glad to get information about communities getting involved in social justice. If you need help, contact us at outreach@jubileeusa.org
- Have your clergy or faith leader share what you are doing for service at local clergy meetings
- Set up a prayer corner in your house of worship. Pray for people living in poverty and for our leaders in Congress. Include pictures and short facts. The corner is a good place for individuals to light candles and write prayers. If the prayer space is in the sanctuary, you might invite people who wish to visit the prayer station to do so at appropriate times during the service.

SHINE LIGHT



on Anonymous Shell Companies

Support the Corporate Transparency Act

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Support the Corporate Transparency Act

We call on Congress to promote transparency, accountability and protections for the vulnerable in our financial system. More than \$1 trillion is stolen from the economies of the developing world every year, much of it hidden in anonymous shell companies formed in the United States.

This wealth drain starves basic public services and leaves vulnerable populations without access to healthcare, safe drinking water, and education. We call on Congress to promote transparency, accountability, and protections for the vulnerable in our financial system by passing the Corporate Transparency Act of 2019 (H.R.2513). The bill would put an end to anonymous companies and curb the ability of corrupt officials to steal public funds with impunity.

Full Name

Address

City, ST, Zip

Email

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Petition in Support of Corporate Transparency

We call on Congress to promote transparency, accountability and protections for the vulnerable in our financial system. More than \$1 trillion is stolen from the economies of the developing world every year, much of it hidden in anonymous shell companies formed in the United States.

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Full Name	Email	Address	Signature

Anonymous Shell Companies

Anonymous corporations, also called shell companies, are companies created on paper that don't do significant business and don't disclose the company's true owner. They are often used as vehicles for financial crimes, including tax evasion, Medicare fraud, terrorism, human trafficking, drug dealing and weapons trafficking. Our partners at Global Witness call these companies the "getaway cars" for financial crime. Shell companies contribute to the estimated one trillion dollars that leaves the developing world annually through crime, tax evasion and corruption. This flow of dirty money takes resources away from the world's poorest countries and people.

When someone forms a company in the U.S., they do not have to disclose the real people who profit from its existence

or activities, known as the "beneficial owners." Instead, the real owners can conceal their names and identities by using a front person (such as a lawyer) to represent the company. This lack of transparency allows criminals and the corrupt to launder money and makes it difficult for law enforcement to solve financial crime.

Financial transparency is critical to ending poverty and protecting both the resources and tax revenues of poor countries. Here in the United States, we have an important role to play in promoting transparency and stopping the flow of dirty money out of developing countries.

The bi-partisan Corporate Transparency Act would

ensure that companies formed in the U.S. disclose their true owners. This will make it much easier for law enforce-



Shell companies facilitate crime and fraud.

ment to track down criminals and prosecute and prevent illegal activity. Corporate transparency can reduce the flow of dirty money and ensure that vulnerable populations can access resources to build schools, hospitals and infrastructure. This bill will make it harder for those stealing from the most vulnerable to use the U.S. financial system as their "getaway car."