



# MAZON'S FIFTH QUESTION

(Read this after the Four Questions)

## How will we find our way to freedom and justice?

The Exodus story begins in Egypt — in Hebrew, *Mitzrayim*, “the narrow place.” *L’dor v’dor*, from generation to generation, we are asked to consider: We too, were slaves in Egypt. We too, were in the narrow place. And today, in this country, we must confront that we are in the narrow place because our systems are failing too many of our neighbors. Today, 44 million Americans are bound by the burden of hunger. If none of us are free until all of us are free, so too are all of us in the narrow place, living with policies that ask — at best — how people can survive, rather than how they can thrive.

Freedom and food are inextricably tied in the Haggadah. We cannot discuss our own freedom, we cannot begin *Magid* (telling the story) and continue the rest of the seder until we heed the command to “let all who are hungry come and eat.”

And so together we ask: How will we find our way to freedom and justice? **With 44 million Americans facing hunger, what actions can we take today so that next year, everyone can share in abundance?**

## YOU CAN HELP THOSE FACING HUNGER

Despite the difficulty and complexity of the pandemic, we accomplished something striking: we challenged the false narrative that people bring poverty and food insecurity upon themselves. The federal government made temporary investments in critical safety net programs like SNAP — changes that MAZON and other advocates had been urging for years. As a country, we started to emerge from “the narrow place,” and we saw a drastic reduction in hunger.

But this year, instead of taking that proof of concept and making the policy changes permanent, hungry Americans were thrown back into that metaphorical *Mitzrayim*. Pandemic-era protections ended, and the rate of food insecurity increased from 34 to 44 million in just twelve short months. Yes, food insecurity is even worse now than before the pandemic.

We cannot and will not abandon the ground that we gained. Instead, we must redouble our efforts to not only preserve the federal safety net but to strengthen and fortify it.

**Together, we can transform *how it is* into *how it should be*.**



**MAZON**

A Jewish Response  
To Hunger

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Visit [mazon.org](https://mazon.org) to join us in our fight to end hunger.