



While Jews across the world planned to celebrate Shavuot this past weekend, there were some things we did not plan on. We did not plan to lament. We did not plan to feel devastated, to be devastated. We did not plan to stand here, some four days later, and still struggle to find words to convey the depth of the tragedy that occurred in Orlando this past weekend.

We stand with Orlando, we stand with the greater LGBTQ community, we stand with the communities, the friends, and the families who lost loved ones. We stand in solidarity and love. But let us not just stand. Let us speak, let us make plans, let us build a better future. As Jews we are asked to take part in acts of Tikun Olam. We are asked to help repair the world. Let us not take Tikun Olam as mere words.

The smallest acts can lead to the greatest changes. And it is time for great changes. No one should have to live in fear. Take a look at the world, but also let us look into our own minds and hearts. The world begins within.

Teheeyu nishmatam tzruram betzror hachayim.

May their souls be bound up in the bonds of life eternal.

Rabbi Leonardo Bitran