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To our dear beloved Kehillah

As I sat down to write this Pesach message the horrific news of a terror attack in the heart of London, our capital, came to light. Evil struck at the symbol of democracy, the seat of our parliament. Four dead and scores of wounded – some seriously – is the result of a seditious, cruel and perverted assault on our way of life.

Terror is evil because it has one purpose and one purpose only. Through disruption and wickedness it breeds fear, and fear if left unchecked leads to hatred. Hatred is the enemy of peace and serenity, it is the opposite of love and brotherhood and it is the antithesis of good. The terrorist may inflict pain on us as a people, as a nation and even as a country, but the devastating impact that may follow and disrupt our way of life is really, in many ways, dependant on us and our response to this callous deed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families and we pray for the complete and speedy recovery of the injured.

On Pesach we recall and tell over the narrative of our redemption. The story of our Exodus, our victory as a people over persecution and how we emerged as a nation despite oppression.

In his classic "Eretz Cheifetz" Maran HaRav Kook wrote:

Those who are pure and righteous do not complain about evil, but increase justice.

They do not complain about godlessness, but increase faith.

They do not complain about ignorance, but increase wisdom

This then is our task! The method of victory, the path to do battle with evil is to increase love. Do more acts of Chessed, further acts of kindness. Be extra benevolent, thoughtful and considerate of others. Speak with extra care, give another moment pause before responding to a challenging or potentially enraging situation.

When we sit at our Pesach Seder with family and friends pause a moment and I ask take a minute to teach this message. Mah nishtanah halayla hazeh? How is this night different from other nights?

It is my hope that on Seder night we commit to better the world around us. Letaken Olam B'malchut Shakai – To help improve the world so that the divine presence may find its place amongst us once again.

Baseless hatred has the power to destroy, whilst baseless love has the power to build.

Being vigilant and slightly cautious is our right, but panicked and afraid never, for that is the seed of hatred which destroys our world.

May the Almighty bring peace and security upon all of mankind, upon us and all of Israel. Amen.

Chag Sameach

Rabbi Chaim, Bianca, Datya, Tiffy, Tzvi, Channah and Netzach Kanterovitz

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