

# Tzelem צלם

*The Rabbinic Call for Social and Economic Justice in the UK*

## Launch Documents

for Peers, MPs, press and members  
of the public



You can also access these documents on our website at  
[www.tzelem.uk](http://www.tzelem.uk).



## What You Can Do Next

Thank you for joining us for the launch of Tzelem: The Rabbinic Call for Social and Economic Justice in the UK.

While full membership is restricted to rabbis and cantors we consider every engaged individual as a key partner in the work of Tzelem. We hope you will want to continue your involvement with Tzelem and would suggest the following ways to do so:

- **Visit** the ‘friends’ space on our website – [www.tzelem.uk/friends](http://www.tzelem.uk/friends)
  - There you can **sign up** to our friends’ mailing list.
  - **Download** materials from today’s event including the transcripts of the 4 Rabbis’s talks and the Shofarot calls.
- Join our **Facebook** group and follow us on **twitter** – @Tzelem\_UK.
- **Spread the word** – tell your contacts about Tzelem.
- **Get in touch** with us to raise issues of social and economic justice in the UK.
- Any questions please **email** [tzelem.uk@gmail.com](mailto:tzelem.uk@gmail.com).

## **Information about Tzelem**

Tzelem brings Jewish voices to issues of social and economic justice in the UK.

Tzelem: The Rabbinic Call for Social and Economic Justice in the UK is a cross-communal campaigning organisation which provides rabbinic and cantorial voices on matters of social and economic justice in the UK.

It is founded on the Jewish principle that we are all created b'tzelem Elokim—in the image of God. We believe that every person is equally significant before the divine, all human beings are equal, all human beings are unique and most importantly all human beings are of infinite value. Tzelem uses Jewish teachings to integrate Judaism into matters of social and economic justice.

The Jewish People and our Teachings have a proud tradition of fighting for social and economic justice. This is rooted in the Hebrew Prophets' impassioned advocacy of the rights of the marginal and the powerless. Their ancient call to actions stirs us today to speak out on issues of social and economic justice. We seek to continue that tradition by taking action and critiquing the problems at the root of our society, our economy and our treatment of the vulnerable.

Our vision is that through Tzelem Rabbis and Cantors in the UK will be able to contribute a unique Jewish voice to the public discourse. As an open organisation, Tzelem will be working in partnership with other faith groups, charities, partner organisations and key individuals. Tzelem will engage with the decision makers in our country as well as with the press and will provide a central point of contact for them.

While full membership is restricted to rabbis and cantors, we consider every engaged individual as a key partner in the work of Tzelem. We therefore hope that you will continue to be a part of this exciting new development in the Jewish community and the wider society.

If I am not for myself who will be for me? If I am only for myself who am I? And if not now, when?

Mishna Avot 1:14

# **Rabbis and Cantors Sound Wakeup Call on Social Justice**

Speaker of the House of Commons, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP, hosted the launch of Tzelem - a unique cross-denominational Jewish clerical campaign group on Wednesday 28th January. Dedicated to speaking out against injustice, Tzelem will reassert Judaism's rich and vibrant tradition of social justice activism.

Participants at the launch were addressed by the Speaker and rabbis and cantors presented their vision for a just society. The rabbis and cantors also sounded shofarot as a wakeup call to urgent actions on matters of social and economic justice in the UK.

The Speaker, The Rt Hon John Bercow MP said "I welcome the initiative by Tzelem to speak up for the cause of social justice. This is a non-partisan campaign designed to highlight some of the endemic problems that the country faces and to argue for policies which will tackle injustice and promote greater opportunity and social."

Student Rabbi Robyn Ashworth Steen, one of the group's founding members, said it was time to take a stand: "We see increasing child poverty, food poverty and malnutrition; greater disparity between the wealthy and the poor; the creation of an underclass denied access to support because of cuts in legal aid; and the withdrawal of funds from charities. This is not acceptable. It's time we woke up to this."



