



Malaria kills. Send a net. Save a life.

Days of Awe: Renewing Our Lives with *Nothing But Nets*

Yamim Noraim, the Days of Awe, is a time of reflection to review and renew our lives. It is a time to confront our own mortality and renew our lives with *t'shuvah* (repentance) and *tzedakah*, helping to renew and save others' lives as well.

One of the centerpieces of the *Yamim Nora'im* liturgy is the medieval *piyyut* (poem), *Une'taneh Tokef*. It tells us that difficult things happen in this world beyond our control and that some will live and some will die in the coming year. It urges us to confront those hardships to better understand our mortality. But the ultimate message is that through *t'shuvah*, *t'filah* (prayer) and *tzedakah* (charity), we can cope with our challenges and give more meaning to our lives.

An excellent *tzedakah* project for the Yamim Noraim is one that can help others overcome *their* own hardships while also providing hope and renewal: ***Nothing But Nets***. Today, malaria remains a major killer in sub-Saharan Africa, infecting over 200 million people and killing over 600,000 -- mostly children -- each year. It overwhelms healthcare systems, costs billions in lost worker productivity, and perpetuates extreme poverty. It particularly devastates refugees fleeing political violence who are then subjected to impoverished conditions in refugee camps, which often lack adequate nets.

That's why, this year, our [efforts at the RAC will be focused around Camp Nyarugusu](#), the sole refugee camp in Tanzania that houses refugees fleeing from violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. [A simple \\$10 donation to the RAC's *Nothing But Nets* campaign](#) for an insecticide-treated bed net can protect an entire family in the camp, and give families in the camp one less thing to worry about in the coming year. [You can also let Congress know that saving lives from malaria is important to reform Jews](#), and that our movement supports strong US leadership in the global fight against the disease.

So this year, when we hear the call of the shofar on Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur, let it awaken us to hear the call of those in need -- those longing to overcome their burdens and find renewed hope in the simplicity of a life-saving bed net. Take action this Yamim Noraim by donating to the RAC's *Nothing But Nets* campaign or writing to Congress at rac.org/nets. By doing so, you can renew your days, and the days of others.



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- **10 Days, 10 Dollars.** Encourage families to pledge \$1/day for the Yamim Noraim, or Days of Awe, (10 days total) to renew their *own* lives by renewing the lives of others! Pass out *Nothing But Nets* informational brochures at Rosh Hashanah and collect donations during Yom Kippur.
- **Set a Goal:** Clergy and educators can use this major congregational gathering as the perfect time to start a *Nothing But Nets tzedakah* or letter writing campaign, with a goal to end before the Union for Reform Judaism's Biennial Conference in December. Get started by emailing Veronica at vgrant@rac.org.
- **Study Session:** Many congregations host special adult study sessions or junior congregation study sessions on Yom Kippur afternoon. Use our [Nothing But Nets Modern Talmud Page](#) and accompanying discussion questions
- **Holiday Drives:** Many congregations run a food drive for their local pantries or shelters as part of their holiday *tzedakah* program. Address extreme poverty abroad by asking each family to also donate one net to save a refugee family from malaria. Distribute our informational brochure along with shopping bags or put one inside each prayer book. Contact Veronica at vgrant@rac.org to get started.

