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Dear Friends of The Pluralism Project,

In early November, at synagogues across America, people showed up for Shabbat services one week after the shootings at Tree of Life Synagogue. After the worst anti-Semitic attack in U.S. history, the CEO of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) David Harris stated: "We are not afraid. We are not going to think twice about affirming our identity and faith... We are determined to ensure that love triumphs over hate, good over evil, unity over division. That's our America." AJC's #ShowUpforShabbat exemplified the spirit of pluralism, affirming the importance of identity and faith while also seeking to foster unity across lines of difference.

Here in Massachusetts, "Solidarity Shabbats" drew standing-room-only crowds; those gathered shared grief, strengthened resolve, and solidified local bonds. Pluralism Project staff were present to bear witness at many of these events:

- At Temple Israel in Boston, religious leaders from diverse communities linked together in a prayer chain, each offering one sentence of prayer.
- At Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, more than a thousand community members – Jewish and non-Jewish – attended Shabbat services and joined the cantors in an emotional version of "America the Beautiful."
- In Concord, neighbors and members of local faith communities gathered outside Kerem Shalom with candles and signs of support. Together, they walked into the synagogue for services.

Interfaith encounter is, fundamentally, a matter of *showing up*. In the aftermath of attacks in Pittsburgh, Charleston, and Oak Creek, neighbors have shown up

in sadness and solidarity. They also show up every day, in cities and towns across America, for food drives and open houses, book clubs and dinner dialogue groups—building the foundation for responsive, creative interfaith action. This is what we call “interfaith infrastructure,” our most critical human infrastructure.

At the [Pluralism Project](#), we study and document religious diversity and interfaith relations in America, creating tools for educators and civic leaders to facilitate engagement across lines of difference. Each year, this work seems more critical, with unprecedented challenges to minority faith communities and exponential growth of interfaith groups. The Pluralism Project, while based at Harvard, does not receive general operating support from the University. For more than two decades, our work has thrived through philanthropic partnerships, and through donations from individuals who [support our efforts](#)—like you.

As we look ahead to 2019, the Pluralism Project will launch new programs to increase our impact, hosting a case study workshop for colleagues in interfaith and religious studies, and developing an online, open-access course through HarvardX. We will also update and expand our existing resources, redesigning our website and developing new case study materials.

Thank you for your support, and please consider making a donation to us, either [online](#) or by [mail](#).

[Donate Now](#)

With gratitude,



Diana L. Eck

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