

October 2019

PROTECTING JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY – A CALL FOR SOLIDARITY AND PRAYER

Dear friends, dear brothers and sisters, dear intercessors,

We are all deeply concerned by the recent terrorist attack on the synagogue in Halle. Jewish life has been under increasing threat for many months now in Germany. There have been many attacks on Jewish citizens – on rabbis, in Jewish restaurants and on Jewish children in schools. And now an attempted terrorist attack on a synagogue! A massacre was only narrowly avoided as God protected the people inside. Better police protection of Jewish facilities is now rightly being demanded – but above all for a **more evident solidarity in support of Jews**.

As Christians who now for many years have taken on the responsibility to pray and intercede for the government and society in our land, we want to be active in this area. **We affirm and stand for the protection of Jewish life in Germany!** We want to express our solidarity with Jewish communities, not only pledging our support but actually making it really effective. Many of us have long stood on the side of the State of Israel. Let us also stand clearly on the side of the Jewish people in Germany. How can we do this?

Our proposal for action: Germany wears the Star of David

As the board of the Call of the Watchmen we have written to our Federal President Dr. Franz-Walter Steinmeier and asked for his support for an initiative to show collective solidarity towards our Jewish fellow citizens, where we openly display the Star of David in the colours of the German flag on the back of a jacket, on a sweater or on a scarf or tie around the neck. Men could also wear a kippa.

This would be a positive sign of encouragement and commitment to Jewish life in Germany.



And who could better support and promote such an action as our Federal President! This proposal has also already been welcomed by Jews in Berlin. Please pray that such a collective “declaration of support” will become a reality in Germany.

Irrespective of how the Federal President reacts to our proposal, we want to encourage you to express your solidarity with the Jewish people by positive action.

Here are some practical suggestions:

- Wear a Star of David in the colours of the German flag as suggested above. (See attached file for printing a star in various sizes.) A pin-badge (2.5cm dia.) has been made available to order from the Call of the Watchmen office.
- Write to the Jewish community in your city saying that you stand on their side and are prepared to support them.
- Visit a service in the synagogue in your city. Remember that you should first contact them by telephone to introduce yourself and take a personal identification document to show at the door.
- Write to national Jewish organisations clearly expressing the fact that you welcome and affirm Jewish life in Germany.
- and let us all ask God how we can generally stand for Jewish life in Germany more effectively and provide stronger support.

Pray with fresh zeal for a social transformation

Finally, we believe that God is prompting us as intercessors to move forward courageously and not to remain silent but to allow our love for the Jewish people to become real. Furthermore, we want to trust God for a **social transformation**. God can move the German people to stand firmly for the Jewish people, democracy and the rights to freedom embodied in our Basic Law. And we want to pray that out of the hearts of civil society a new appreciation of Jewish life will emerge for all to see. God listens to us!

Thus, together with you all, we once again entrust our land to our heavenly Father. As watchmen we pray at this time especially for protection and preservation of the Jewish community and all of its facilities from attack, and that all right-wing extremist networks and their plans will come into the light in time for preventive action.

Shalom!

-Alexander Schlueter-