ABOUT US

National Organization
Jewish Institutions
Abuses of Power
Across Denominations & Lifespan
OUR APPROACH

- Grounded in Jewish text and values
- Proactive and deep commitment to healthy Jewish communities.
- Transparency, accountability, and support.
- Cultural shift.

HANDOUT
How Children are Valued in the Jewish Tradition

In this thought-provoking essay, Rabbi David Rosen discusses the centrality of children in the Jewish tradition.

Rabbi David Rosen, PhD, CBE, is the former Chief Rabbi of Ireland and currently serves as the director of the American Jewish Committee’s Department of International Interreligious Affairs.

Judaism views childhood as a period of purity, joy, and beauty to be valued and cherished. The Talmud states that “childhood is a garland of roses” and that “the very breath of children is free of sin.” (Babylonian Talmud, Shabbat 112b, 113b)

As Judaism recognizes that a child does not have the cognitive ability to fully distinguish good from evil, the parent has the ultimate responsibility of guiding the child in keeping with the words in Deuteronomy 11:19, “And you shall teach them the words of God.”
WHAT WE DO

Readiness  Assessment  Codification  Training  Evaluation & Review

It is not your duty to complete the work, but neither may you desist.

~ R’ Tarfon, Pirkei Avot 2:16
ALEINU: SAFEGUARDING OUR CHILDREN
SACRED SYNAGOGUES

- Cross-Denominations Cohort
- Comprehensive Training
  - Best practices in screening and hiring, prevention and education, response protocols, and victim/survivor support.
- Individualized Guidance
  - Establishing safety committees, developing value statements, and creating plans for policy implementation and maintenance.
- Red-Line Review.
COMING SOON

POLICY TOOLKIT
- Online policy toolkit to create respectful, healthy, and safe environments for employees, volunteers, and other stakeholders.
- SRE
- Beta-testing.

JUDAIC STUDY GUIDE
- Collection of texts and commentaries that relate to respect, responsibility, and institutional abuses of power.
- Center for Jewish Ethics, Reconstructing Judaism.
- Jewish professionals and lay leaders across the denominational spectrum.
RESOURCE SERIES

Community Organizations
Long-Term Care & Medical Facilities
Family Members & Caregivers

COVID-19 & Elder Abuse Resource Series
Creating Sacred Spaces for Our Elders
FOCUS

- Knowledge
- Assistance
- Commitment
- Creative & communal responses
- Prevention through policy and self-care

Staff members face risks to their own serving as the primary residents. They may support systems. 10 volunteers abusing term care facilities such as:

To meet the staffing demands created by COVID-19, a few standards have been loosened, such as lifting some of the credentialing requirements for direct-care workers. These moves can be a relief for institutions but can also introduce new risks for elder abuse. To maintain safeguards, institutions must screen all potential volunteers and employees before granting access. Check each applicant’s references, confirm post-employment, and conduct necessary background checks. Inquire as to whether there has been any prior issues with interpersonal boundaries or concerns about abusive or neglectful behavior.
Older people are more likely to live alone in the U.S. than elsewhere in the world. (Pew, March 2020)

One of the disturbing social consequences of COVID-19 includes a significant rise of ageism. (Malik, Mansoor, et. al, September 2020)

83.6% increase in prevalence since pandemic. One in five older persons in the study reported elder abuse. (Chang, E-Shien, et. al, January 2021)

Found that older persons with a stronger sense of community were less likely to experience abuse during the pandemic.
Guided by Lived Experiences

- Kehillah
- Agency, Autonomy & Dignity
- Readiness through Policy Development, including Jewish Text
- Common Language and Understanding
- Exploring Spirituality & Faith
“The test of spirituality... is not how the community receives the most powerful, but how it welcomes the most vulnerable.”

Rabbi Avi Weiss
Creating Sacred Communities Together

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