

A Jewish contribution to the joint prayer for Divine mercy in the face of the
Covid-19 pandemic

David Rosen

Chief Rabbi David Rosen the Director of interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee : “ It is a great privilege for me to join with religious leaders in joint prayer initiated by the Higher Committee for Human Fraternity in the face of a rampant universal pandemic that we are grappling with.”

“We share the belief in One Creator of the World who is Compassionate and Merciful (“Harahaman” in Hebrew, almost identical to El Rahman as He is described in Islam) who calls upon us to behave accordingly with these qualities towards our fellow human beings and especially the vulnerable and needy.”

Our prayers should be reflecting above all on those who are suffering in so many ways as a result of the pandemic and on what we may be able to do for those in need. Above all we must increase our commitment and efforts to advance the human compassion kindness and tolerance that God demands of us and which are the real sources of human solidarity.

In this regard we must applaud the remarkable efforts of the UAE for interreligious tolerance, collaboration and mutual understanding.

We must give thanks to the All-Merciful for those who have so valiantly fought against this disease and those who are selflessly protecting our various societies; and seek His blessings and enlightenment on those working to obtain the relevant medical treatment and inoculation.

Jewish daily morning services contain penitential prayers, and on Monday and Thursday mornings these are extended and include the following passage with which I conclude in prayer:-

“There is none more gracious and compassionate than You O lord our God, Lord of tolerance, abundant in lovingkindness and truth. Deliver us O Lord in your abounding mercy from fierceness and rage.... and remove from us the plague of death, for You are the Compassionate one; for such is Your Way, performing deeds

of gratuitous lovingkindness in every generation. Spare Your people and deliver us from your wrath and remove from us the plague of pestilence and harsh decree... O Lord deliver us, O Lord send prosperity, O Lord answer us on this day when we call on You. For you Lord we wait, in You O Lord we hope.” Amen

Chief Rabbi David Rosen KSG CBE, is the Jerusalem based International Director of interreligious Affairs of the American Jewish Committee

