

Chagim uMoadim

— from the Masorti Movement



ת"ס

May our world be a better place!

During the High Holidays, we are obliged to ask ourselves what kind of person we are. What we achieved in this last year and what we neglected. We have to work on our personality to become better human beings in a spiritual and in a practical sense.

For me the key word of the High Holidays is change. However, we still should acknowledge our achievements and celebrate them during these days, and strengthen these inner values.

Hence, we have to slow down and think how we can bring this change into our lives. Beyond improving our personal relationships, I think, we have to concentrate on changing the world - to bring justice to those who are suffering, living in social deprivation, racial or religious exclusion or refugees of wars or environmental catastrophes. Tikkun Olam for me is the responsibility to make the world a better place, to motivate myself to take action in a small and a large scale, to be a bit kinder and more helpful, especially to those with less opportunities and privileges than we have.

As members of the worldwide Conservative/Masorti Movement, our responsibilities are greater, but at the same time, our tasks are easier. In this upcoming year, as Masorti Jews from around the world, we face tremendous and numerous challenges. In Israel, we have to fight for our egalitarian rights at the Western Wall in Jerusalem and fight for the acknowledgement of the Israeli rabbinate to accept our conversions and our marriages. In Latin America, we have to fight against deprivations and gang wars. In Germany, we cannot let the new neo-Nazi AfD party rise, as they already received almost 13 percent of the votes in the latest elections with their anti-Semitic anti-refugee agenda. In France and in Belgium, Jews are threatened by extremist groups and a new wave of antisemitism has appeared. In the USA, the White House itself spreads hatred against those families who seek a better world or sustainable existence. We struggle here in Hungary, where liberal democratic values have almost disappeared and as a Non-Governmental Organization, we have been humbled and harassed by local authorities along with dozens of other organizations.

We, as members of the same Movement, have the chance to work together and create change; as Jews, as Masorti Jews and as human beings.

May God help us to do so.

Adam Schonberger
Dor Hadash, Hungary



Adam Schonberger , 37 years old, married and the executive director of Marom Budapest, Hungary, and board member of Kehilat Dor Hadash.

Dor Hadash is a Budapest based grassroots and inclusive Masorti Jewish community that defines itself in positive terms. Dor Hadash has been a member of Masorti Olami since 2012. They have Kabbalat Sabbath services every week, occasional Shacharit services and celebrate other Jewish festivals (e.g. Pesach, Tu Bishvat or Hanukkah) together with other organizations. They welcome visitors of all age, gender, religious affiliation or identity.

Marom Budapest, the young adult Movement of the Masorti Community in Budapest, lays a stronger emphasis on social justice issues. Marom volunteers agree that “tikkun olam” can be (and already functions) as a possible ground for Hungarian Jewish identity. Furthermore, Marom members think that as a Jewish organization in post-socialist Hungary it is crucial to take part in social debates and initiate social movements.

*The activities of Masorti Olami and MERCAZ Olami are implemented
in partnership with the World Zionist Organization*

