

**United Nations Decade for People of African Descent
The Congregation Machzikei Hadas, the Jewish
Federation of Ottawa, and
the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs
adopts**

The International Decade for People of African Descent. Development. Recognition. Justice

Honouring

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, Rabbi Emeritus, of the Congregation Machzikei Hadas
and

Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey, Lead Minister, Parkdale United Church

*“What is hateful to you, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole Torah,
all the rest is commentary. Go and learn it”.*

(Hillel. Talmud. Sabbath 31a)

WHEREAS, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period from 2015 to 2024 as The International Decade for People of African Descent in its Resolution 68/237 of December 23, 2014; and The Decade rests on three pillars: Development, Recognition. Justice and identifies people of African as a distinct group whose human rights and dignity must be promoted and protected; and

WHEREAS, The Decade was officially recognized by Canada (January 30, 2018), by Ontario (February 2017); by the City of Ottawa (March 21, 2018), all publicly funded school boards, the Faculty of Education University of Ottawa, and is being adopted by others in Ottawa; and

WHEREAS, the city’s adoption of The Decade marked March 21, 2018, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, established to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in all its forms; and

WHEREAS, we, Congregation of Machzikei Hadas, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs denounce racism in all its forms, stand together with our brothers and sisters of African descent; and

WHEREAS, we are deeply committed as champions of our mantra that racism anywhere and from anyone, is an outrage that will not be tolerated; and deem any intrusion on the safety and well-being of the communities of African descent to be unacceptable and will be called out; and

WHEREAS, in Ottawa, we recognize that some persons of African descent are also of Jewish descent, with whom we have shared stories, including persons of African descent protecting the safety and well being of Jews during World War 2; and

WHEREAS, in Ottawa, we have established relationships of ally-ship that model the intent of The Decade, including the collaborative model provided by Rev. Dr. Anthony Bailey and Rabbi Reuven Bulka, for denouncing racism in all its forms, promoting kindness, reconciliation and respect for all our human brothers and sisters; and the “One Blood” initiative; and

WHEREAS, in good faith and with good will conversations with members of the community of African descent in Ottawa, we, the Congregation of Machzikei Hadas, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs do hereby commit to collaborate as allies, with people of African descent in Ottawa, for the fulfillment of the intent of The Decade, here in the municipality of Ottawa, with their condition, "*Nothing about us without us*".

THEREFORE, Congregation of Machzikei Hadas, the Jewish Federation of Ottawa and the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs do hereby wholeheartedly adopt the intent of The International Decade for People of African Descent. Development. Recognition. Justice, with people of African descent recognized as a distinct group whose human rights and dignity must protected and promoted.