

When all Jews march together, we shall overcome

New York Jewish liberal organizations are now standing in solidarity with their Orthodox brethren and will march against the hatred behind the rise in antisemitic hate crimes on January 5th. That is the first and crucial step.

by Phyllis Chesler



Has Hanukkah been extended this year? Are we still celebrating a time of miracles? I ask because, to their credit, New York Jewish liberal organizations are finally standing in solidarity with Orthodox and Haredi Jews, the most visible and vulnerable of our brethren who, sporting beards and payes, wearing black hats, yarmulkes, fringes and long frocks; speaking Hebrew and Yiddish; wearing Stars of David, headscarves, and long and sometimes shapeless dresses, have all recently been under the most profound siege.

The [American Zionist Movement](#) and [Camera](#) has just issued its own call to join this Solidarity March. Missing entirely (at

least so far) from the lineup of marchers is the Zionist Organization of America and Americans for a Safe Israel, groups that have usually been right on the issues. Maybe they are planning to do something other than march.

List making is not my genius. But the times are grim. In addition to marching, here are some of my ideas.

1) Visit the people who have been attacked. Sit with them. Console them. Tell them that they are not alone. Ask what you can do to help them.

2) Remind the Orthodox and religious Jews that we are religiously commanded to defend ourselves when we are about to be or are under attack.

3) Immediately begin self-defense training—why not krav maga?—for Orthodox and haredi communities, for both girls and boys, women and men.

4) Carry loud whistles with you when you are out. Carry whatever is legal—not a gun, not Mace—perhaps red pepper, tactical gloves, and the right kind of legal canes, umbrellas, and keychains that can be used to defend yourself. Obtaining a legal permit to carry a gun that you've been trained to use is a [case](#), the young Israeli woman who was verbally and physically assaulted on the subway—and which the Manhattan District Attorney, Cyrus Vance, decided [Israel National News](#).