

DENNIS ROSS

TO: Rabbi Stuart Weinblatt

FROM: Dennis Ross

Dear Stuart,

As a co-chair of the Jewish People Planning Institute in Jerusalem, I have become increasingly aware of the need to promote pluralism among all the streams of Judaism. We are too small a people, facing too many challenges, not to foster a broad tent in which we all must reside and co-exist. If that is true for the different streams that is even more true for the American diaspora and Israel. With the de-legitimization movement as determined as ever, here again we see the need to find ways to build the ties between American Jewry and Israel.

That is why I believe the Zionist Rabbinic Coalition is such an important group. Your mission statement explains clearly your commitment to promoting pluralism and ties to Israel. You acknowledge we can have differences among ourselves and Israel but those pale in comparison to what binds us. You emphasize the need for Jewish unity and peoplehood, and just as importantly, the imperative of respecting our diversity. At a time when polarization characterizes so much of our reality and Israel's, we must collectively commit to promoting our common identity and heritage. Only by doing so, can we prevail in a post-pandemic world that is likely to become even more challenging.

I hope the Zionist Rabbinic Coalition will expand and its influence will grow, and I will be happy to help as it does so.

Sincerely,

Dennis Ross

Counselor and William Davidson Distinguished Fellow at The Washington Institute