

A Yom Kippur Prayer for Shalom Bayit

This prayer of healing and renewal, offered in the spirit of Yom Kippur, was created through the Shalom Bayit Program of Jewish Family & Career Services, by women and men in the Atlanta Jewish community who have been deeply affected by abuse in Jewish homes and families. May their words strengthen our commitment to bring about true shalom bayit (peace in the home).

O Merciful and Loving God, as we gather together in Your house on this, the holiest of days, we feel repentant, alive and deeply conscious of our past actions. We open ourselves to You as with sadness we face this truth: at times this past year we have acted cruelly. Some of us have abused our power and used control to hurt our spouses, our children, our parents. Others of us too often looked away, preferring not to see or speak out against abuse in our homes or in the homes of those we know and care about. We have been afraid to interfere.

Today, O God, we pledge that we will no longer allow injustice to reign in our homes or in our community. We will not stand by silently and will find ways to contain our rage and our need for power and control. In an effort to create change, we will seek counsel from our rabbis and other trained professionals. This year too, we will speak up on behalf of children who suffer sexual, physical, and emotional abuse; we will not turn away from adults who live in fear of their mates; and we will reach out to help the elderly among us who are ignored or imprisoned in their own homes.

This day, O God, as we pray for renewal and redemption, we promise ourselves, each other and You that we will support shalom in all homes. May this year be different. **Amen.**

You have the right to be safe in your own home. Abuse is never your fault.

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