



Dear Friends,

I would like to wish you, your families, and communities a healthy and happy Passover.

For many of us, this will be the first time since the pandemic hit that we will be gathering together with our loved ones, and we fervently hope that the worst of COVID-19 is finally behind us. Over the past two years, we have all benefited from the wonders of modern technology, which has enabled us to stay connected to one another even as we maintained social distance. How wonderful it is, though, to be able to explore the age-old traditions of Passover as we sit around the Seder table together.

This year, however, we are all deeply saddened by the terrible war being waged in Ukraine. We empathize with those who are enduring such suffering and mourn for those who have lost their lives. We pray for a speedy end to this conflict and for the swift rebuilding of that country.

At one of the focal points of the Seder we recite *Ha Lachma Anya*: “This is the bread of affliction that our ancestors ate in the land of Egypt. All those who are hungry, let them enter and eat. All who are in need, let them come celebrate the Passover. Now we are here. Next year in the land of Israel. This year we are enslaved. Next year we will be free.”

Many people across the world have brought these words to life by offering those suffering from this conflict shelter in the safety of their homes or communities. Those who have been displaced have received a warm welcome.

I am especially proud of the work that our affiliated Jewish communities, WJC staff, and JDCorps, all working together, are doing to help alleviate the plight of the refugees, and those Jews still in Ukraine, irrespective of their religious or ethnic background.

Once again, I wish you good health and “*Chag Pesach Kasher v’sameach*”— a happy and kosher Passover holiday.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ronald S. Lauder". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of each word being significantly larger and more prominent.

Ronald S. Lauder
President
World Jewish Congress

[Watch Amb. Lauder's message to the Jews of Ukraine](#)

A close-up portrait of Ronald Lauder, President of the World Jewish Congress, speaking. He is wearing a dark suit, a light-colored shirt, and a dark tie. The background is a bookshelf filled with books.


WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

| Ronald Lauder
| President, WJC

For you, this Passover
is like no other.

A still life image featuring several stacks of matzah (unleavened bread) on a light blue surface. A small gift box wrapped in matzah and tied with a light blue ribbon is in the foreground. Yellow flowers are scattered to the right.

Chag Pesach
Kasher v'Sameach!



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