

CULTIVATING HOPE

IN A TIME OF CRISIS



HOPE IN A TIME OF CRISIS

OVER THE PAST YEAR, MY SENSE OF HOPE HAS BEEN CHALLENGED BY:

- Political polarization and erosion of civic norms
- Economic instability and cost of living
- Threats to social welfare system
- Antisemitism
- Climate crisis and environmental concerns
- The war in Israel and Gaza
- Erosion of democratic institutions
- Social media and the information ecosystem
- Personal or family health challenges
- Professional sustainability and burnout
- Division within the Jewish community

HOPE EMERGING THROUGH DIFFICULTY

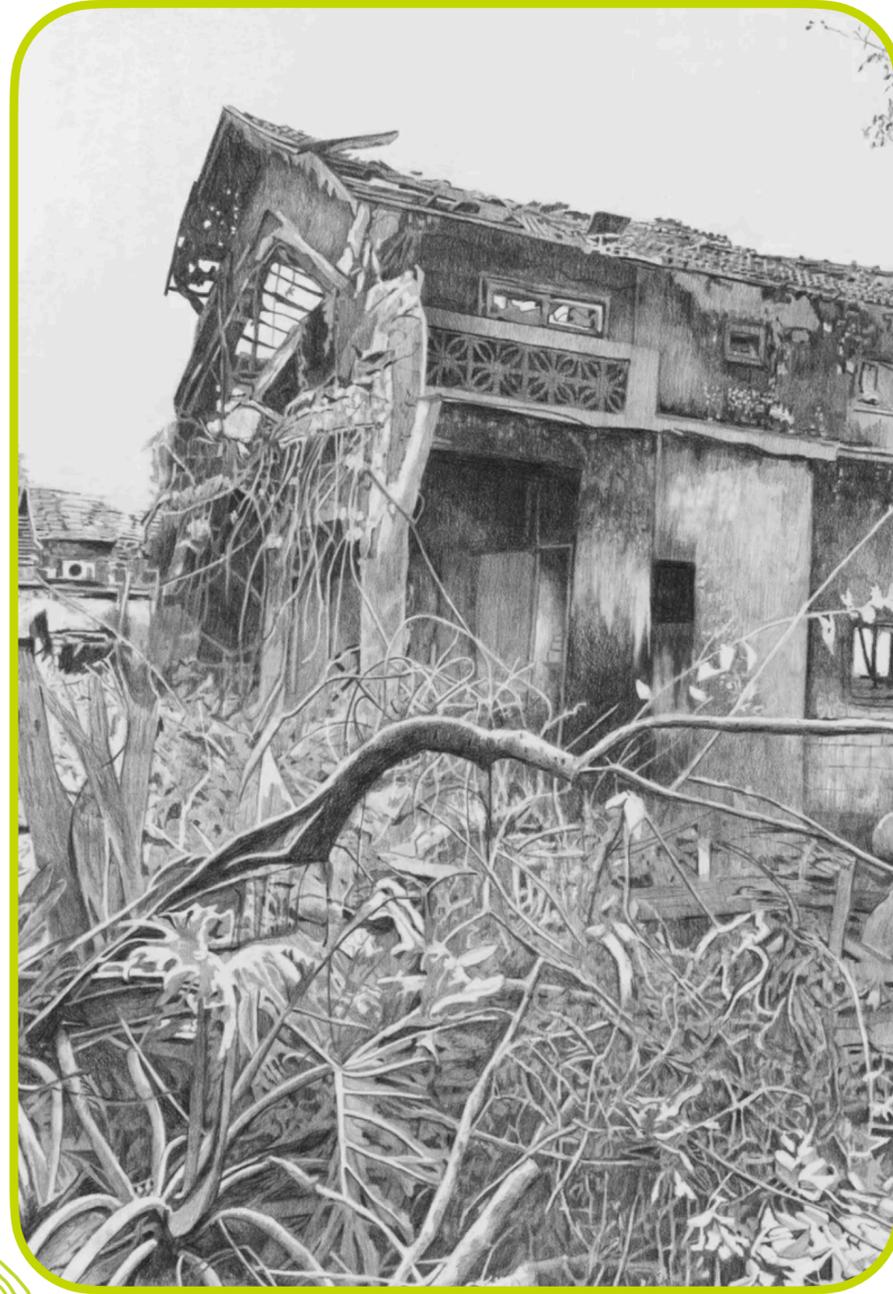
YALKUT SHIMONI

“May the Lord answer you
on the day of trouble”
(Psalms 20, 2)

מדרש ילקוט שמעוני

“יַעֲנֶה ה' בְּיוֹם צָרָה”
(תהילים כ, ב)

HOPE EMERGING THROUGH DIFFICULTY



SHIRA GLAZERMAN
Be'eri, October 7th, 2023
Pencil on paper



SHIRA GLAZERMAN
Campfire Story, 2024
Pencil on paper

DATE: OCTOBER 30, 2025

THE HOPE STUDY

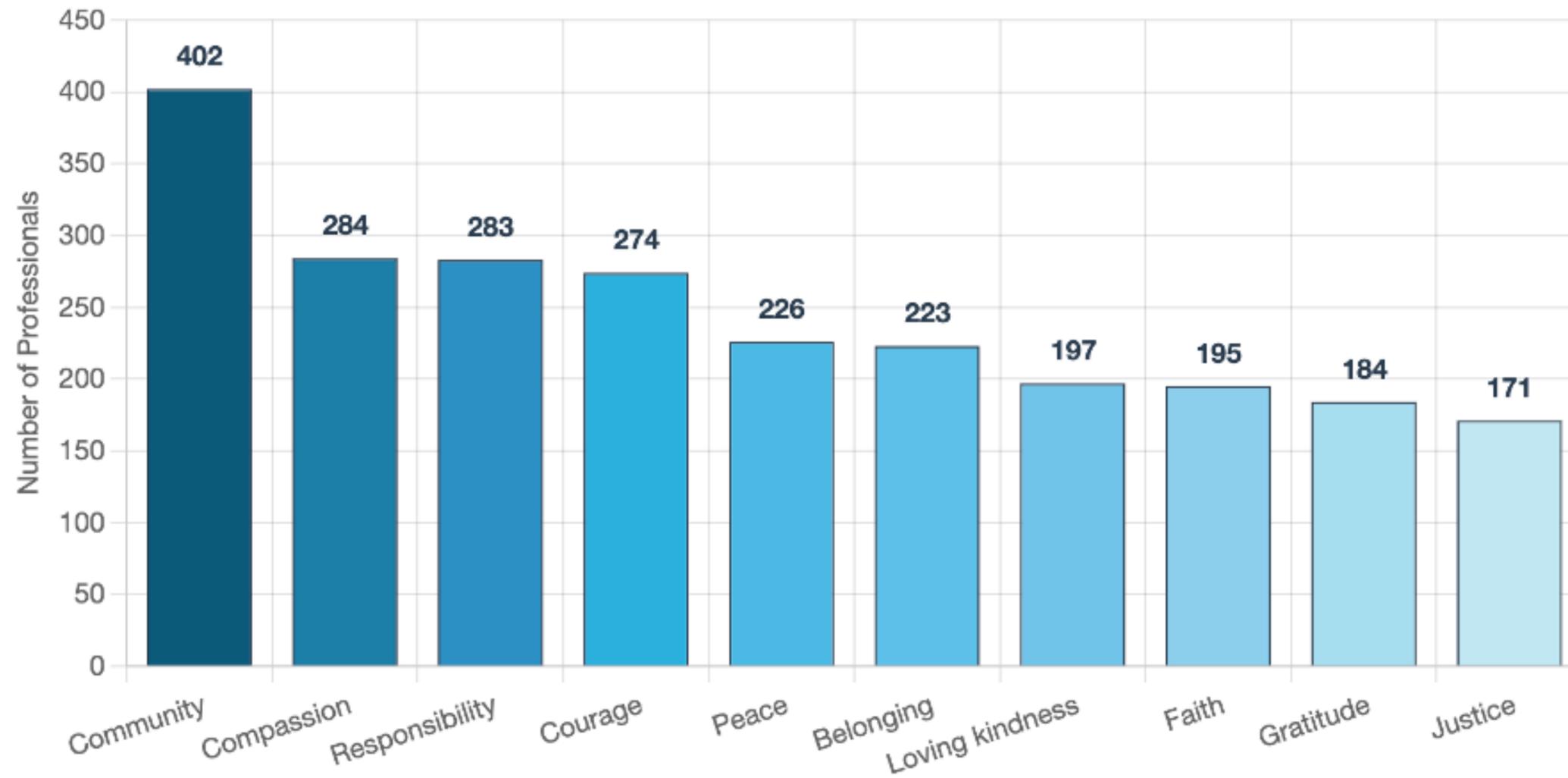
*WHAT JEWISH PROFESSIONALS TOLD
US ABOUT HOPE IN A TIME OF CRISIS*



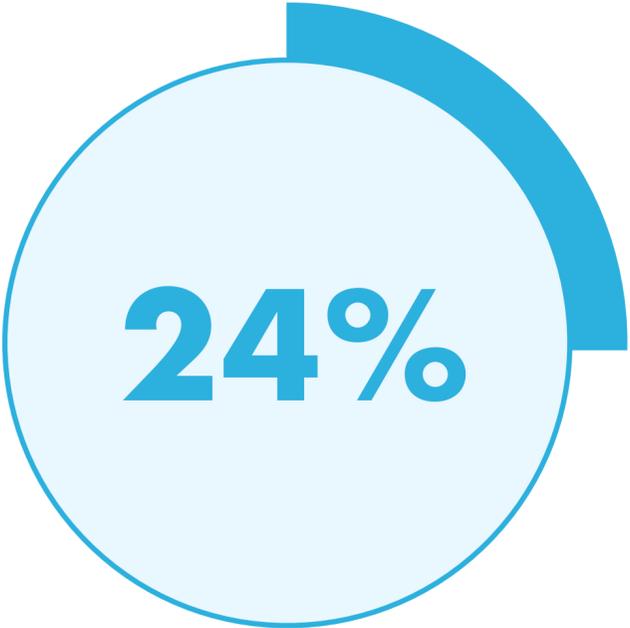
ASSOCIATIONS WITH HOPE

Top 10 Values Associated with Hope

Number of professionals who selected each value (out of 950 respondents)



24% report feeling hopeful “often” or “very often” compared to ~82% of the general U.S. population.



Report Results

vs.



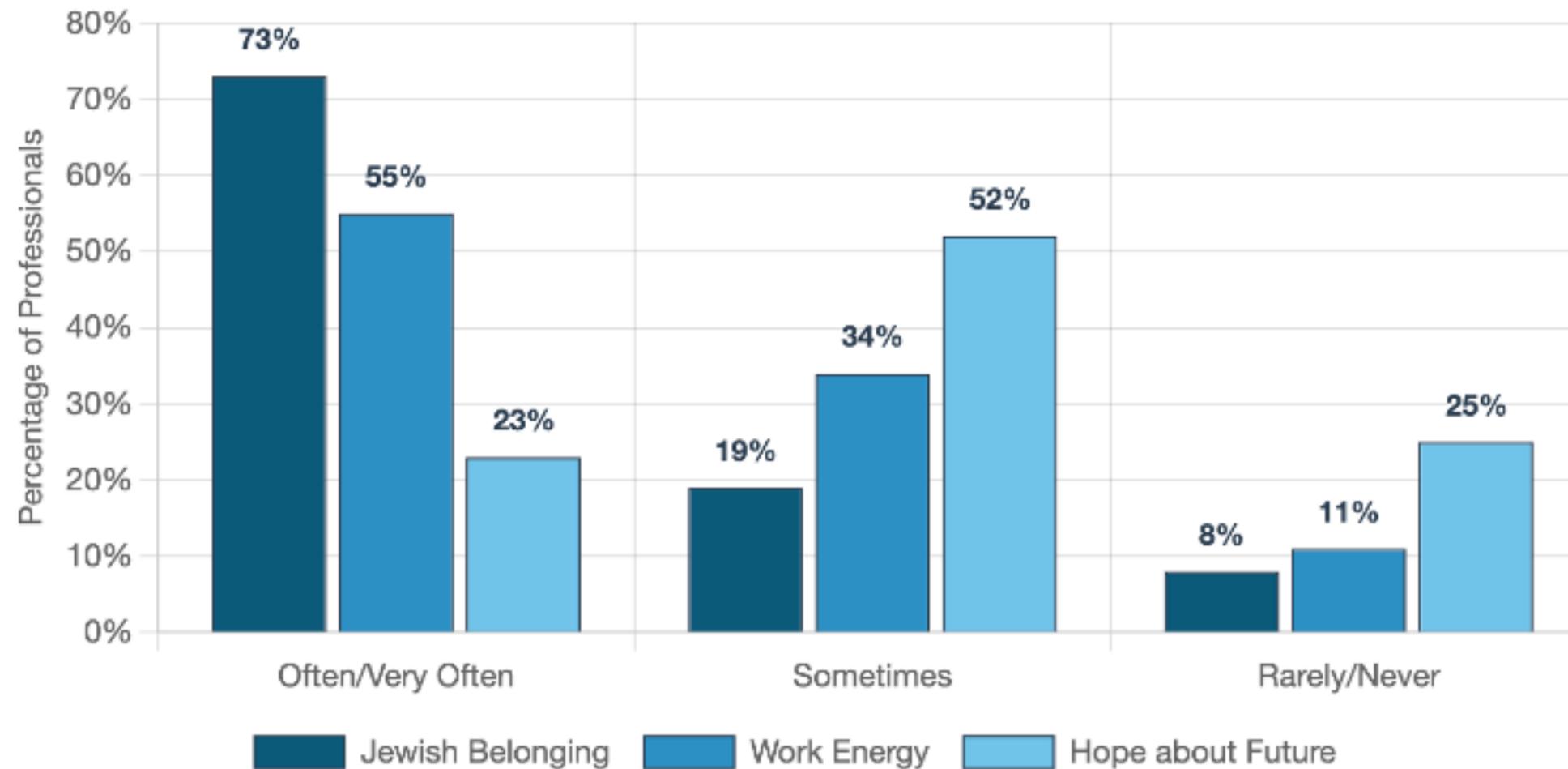
General U.S. population



COMMITMENT HAS NOT COLLAPSED

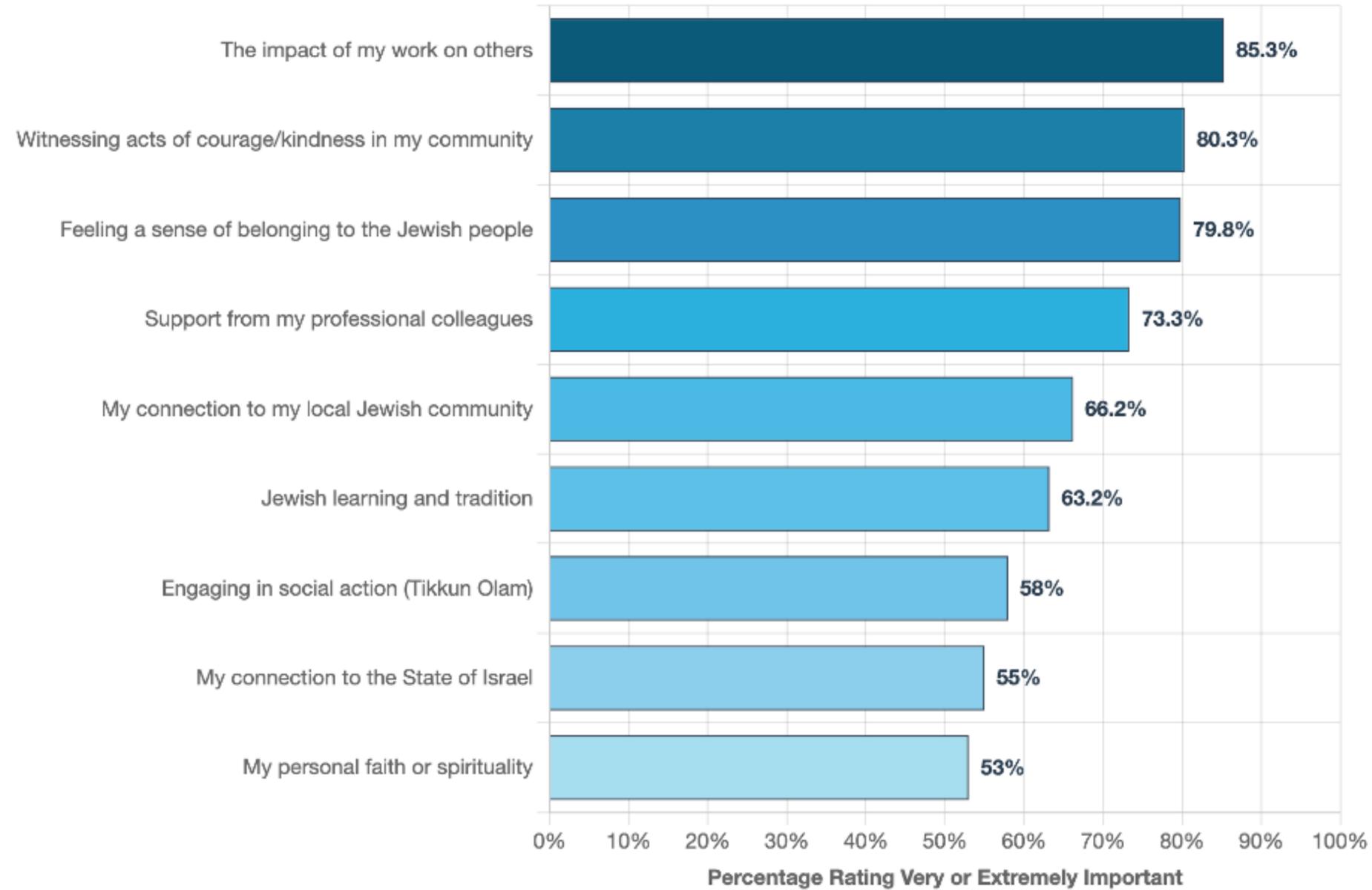
Frequency of Feelings Over Past Four Weeks

Percentage reporting each frequency category (N≈770-780)



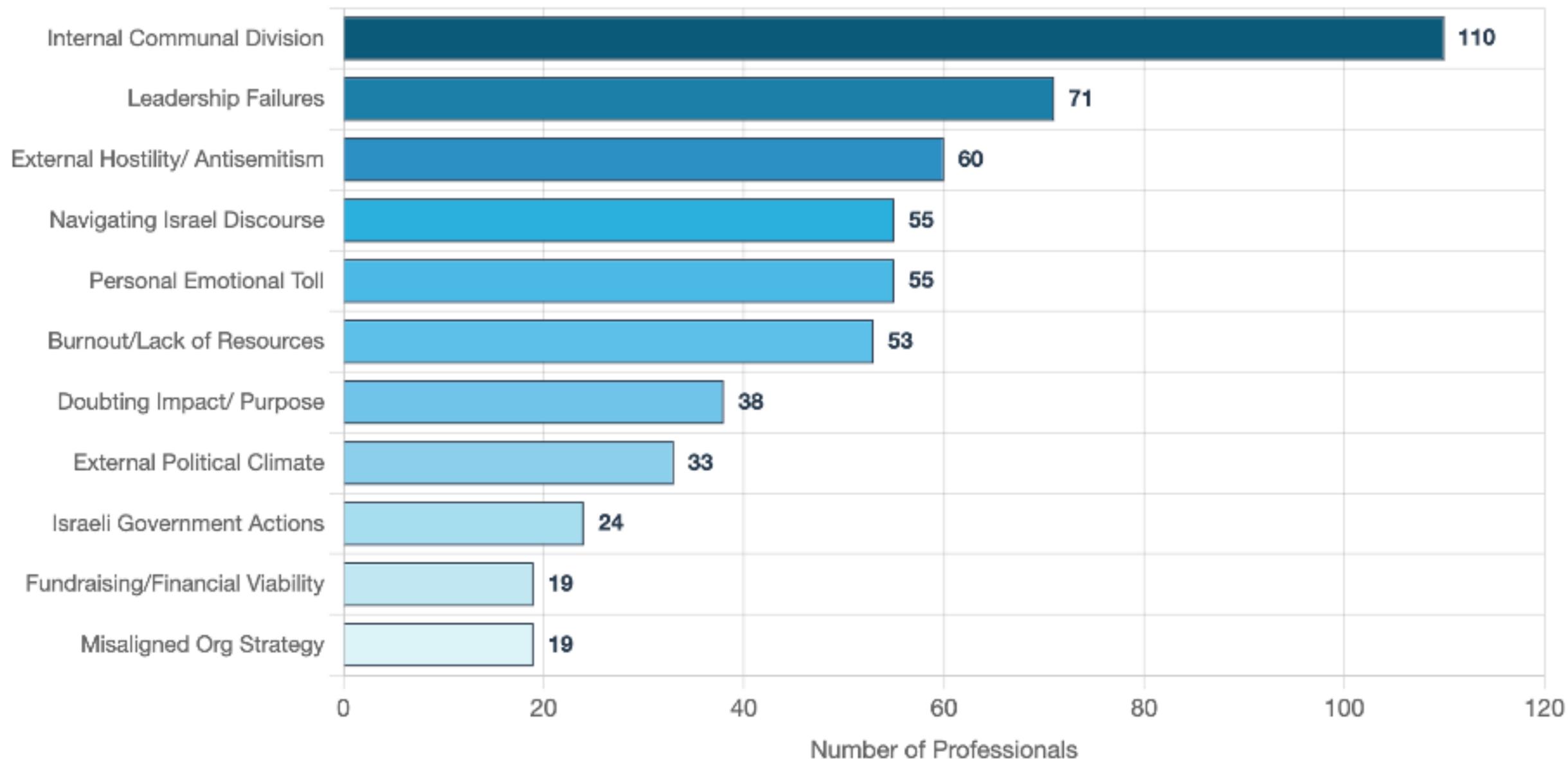
Importance of Different Sources of Hope

Survey of Jewish communal professionals (N=800; % based on valid responses)



Professional Challenges Cited by Respondents

Most frequently cited challenges to professional hope and purpose (N=548)



Greatest Challenges to Hope

Voices from Jewish Communal Professionals

INTERNAL COMMUNAL DIVISION

The greatest professional challenge... is witnessing the deepening fractures within the Jewish community, particularly the inability of Jews with differing perspectives to come together in conversation, mutual respect, and solidarity. In a time when our values and safety are being tested globally, the lack of a shared space for honest, compassionate dialogue, even across disagreement, feels particularly painful.

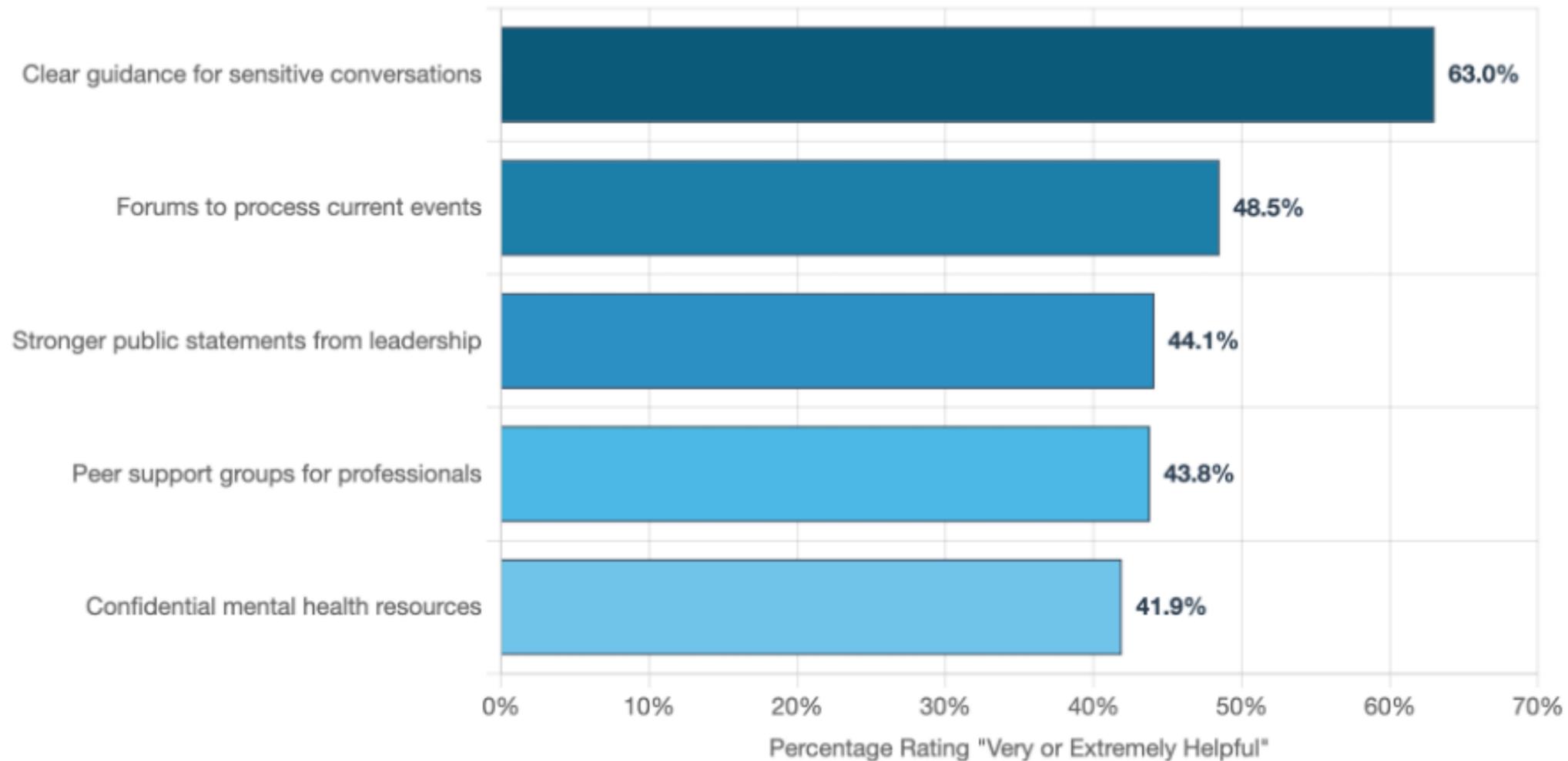
EXTERNAL HOSTILITY

*Antisemitism is clearly an issue, but for me the challenge to my sense of hope isn't the hatred/violence towards Jews as much as it's **the normalization/excusing/silence surrounding it.***

WHAT PROFESSIONALS WANT

Helpfulness of Different Organizational Supports

Percentage rating each organizational support as "very or extremely helpful" (N=800)



BETWEEN PAIN AND BEAUTY: DECONSTRUCTED POETRY

genesis within only
round past yourself
fell of ostracism
appreciatively life once first
individuate the is restores you
the punishment is you failed
the beginning standing very
possible corner the yourself
discover it attempt of who
the one knocked the sick
is you it create your
have in life the creation
have a glance are as has healed
point the worlds
the best view life to
this just lived one
all able to out
back from the in
he discover you as

BETWEEN PAIN AND BEAUTY: DECONSTRUCTED POETRY

THE LIFE YOU HAVE

YONA WALLACH

The life you have
is the life you have lived
Glance back appreciatively
Discover the point of Genesis
The creation
Individuate yourself
This is the best of all possible worlds
The only one
you are able to create
It is within yourself
Discover it
view your life
from the very beginning
as a failed attempt
the past
as punishment
Ostracism
Standing in the corner
Knocked out in the first round
Restore to one who has been healed
Just as he once fell sick

החיים שיש לך

יונה וולך

החיים שיש לך
הם החיים שחיית
הבט אחורה בהבנה
מצא את נקדת הבראשית
הבריאה
ברא את עצמך
זה העולם הטוב ביותר
היחיד
שתוכל לברא
כל זה מצוי בתוכך
גלה אותו
התחל מהתחלה
הבט על חייך
כעל שעור רע
על מה שהיה
כעל ענש
הרחקה
עמידה בפנה
נוקאאוט בסבוב הראשון
תקן כאחד שהבריא
כאחד שחלה

LEADERSHIP AS A PRACTICE OF HOPE

ISAIAH 40:31

But they who trust in God shall renew their strength
As eagles grow new plumes:
They shall run and not grow weary,
They shall march and not grow faint.

ישעיהו מ':ל"א

וְקוֹץ יְהוָה יַחְלִיפוּ כְנָחַי
וְיַעֲלוּ אֶבֶר פְּנִשְׁרָיִם יְרוּצוּ וְלֹא
יִיָּגְעוּ יִלְכוּ וְלֹא יִיָּעֲפוּ:



LEADERSHIP AS A PRACTICE OF HOPE

“If the Hope Study proved anything for me, it’s that **hope isn’t just a concept, it’s a verb.** It lives in motion, in showing up, reaching out, and staying present for one another. It’s what keeps us moving forward when life stops making sense. And the beautiful thing is that it multiplies. The more we practice it and the more connections we make, the more it grows.”

SHAWNA GOODMAN



LEADERSHIP AS A PRACTICE OF HOPE

VERBS

Seek

Promote

Uphold

Embrace

Foster

Cultivate

Nurture

Preserve

Protect

Cherish

Inspire

Encourage

Support

Challenge

Facilitate

Enhance

Elevate

Respect

Pursue

Celebrate

Maintain

Investigate

Guide

Explore

Commit

Engage

Share

Develop

Exemplify

Model

Reflect

Embody

Demonstrate

Advocate

Defend

Reimagine

Implement

Sustain

Enrich

Follow

Accept

Acquire

Apply

Appreciate

Question

Examine

Reframe

Confront

Impart

Radiate

Spread

Offer

Champion

Strengthen

Fulfill

Show

Build

Hold

Find

Ensure

Exhibit

Demand

Exercise

Earn

Experience

Practice

Commemorate

Express

Reimagine

Witness

HOPE AS A CONTAGIOUS FORCE

GOOD PEOPLE / AYA ZEHAVI FEIGLIN

We are good people (4x)

There is evil in the world
There is evil in me too
But at the end of the day I know
I know, my dear
We are good people

We are happy people (4x)

There is darkness in the world
There is darkness in me too
But at the end of the day I know
I know, my dear
We are happy people

Still, still, we'll keep moving
Until the longing runs its course
How deep the longing is
Until consolation

We are dreaming people (4x)

Despair is rising now
In me
But at the end of the day I know
I know, my dear
We are dreaming people

Still, still, we'll keep moving
Until the longing runs its course
How deep the longing is
Until consolation

We are loving (4x)

There is fear in the world
There is fear in me too
But at the end of the day I know
I know, my dear
We are loving

אנשים טובים / איה זהבי פייגלין

אֲנַחְנוּ אֲנָשִׁים חוֹלְמִים (4x)

יְאוֹשׁ עוֹלָה עֶכְשָׁו
אֶצְלִי
אָבֵל בְּסוֹף הַיּוֹם אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת
אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת מִתֶּקָּה
אֲנַחְנוּ אֲנָשִׁים חוֹלְמִים

עוֹד עוֹד נִמְשִׁיחַ לְנוֹעַ

עַד סוֹף הַנְּעִיגוּעַ
כַּמָּה עֲמַק הַנְּעִיגוּעַ
עַד הַנְּחֻמָּה

אֲנַחְנוּ אוֹהֲבִים (4x)

יֵשׁ פֶּחַד בְּעוֹלָם
יֵשׁ פֶּחַד גַּם בִּי
אָבֵל בְּסוֹף הַיּוֹם אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת
אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת מִתֶּקָּה
אֲנַחְנוּ אוֹהֲבִים

אֲנַחְנוּ אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים (4x)

יֵשׁ רַע בְּעוֹלָם
יֵשׁ רַע גַּם בִּי
אָבֵל בְּסוֹף הַיּוֹם אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת
אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת מִתֶּקָּה
אֲנַחְנוּ אֲנָשִׁים טוֹבִים

אֲנַחְנוּ אֲנָשִׁים שְׂמֵחִים (4x)

יֵשׁ חֶשֶׁךְ בְּעוֹלָם
יֵשׁ חֶשֶׁךְ גַּם בִּי
אָבֵל בְּסוֹף הַיּוֹם אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת
אֲנִי יוֹדַעַת מִתֶּקָּה
אֲנַחְנוּ אֲנָשִׁים שְׂמֵחִים

עוֹד עוֹד נִמְשִׁיחַ לְנוֹעַ

עַד סוֹף הַנְּעִיגוּעַ
כַּמָּה עֲמַק הַנְּעִיגוּעַ
עַד הַנְּחֻמָּה