

Dear NFTY,

I remember December 14th, 2014 as clear as day. I was in my 6th grade English class and I asked my teacher if I could go to the bathroom. As I walked to the door, another teacher ran in. I recognized her immediately: it was Mrs. Bagley a science teacher from down the hall. Mascara ran down her face, her hands were trembling and lips quivering. She said four words that are etched into my brain forever.

**“Children have been shot.”**

I sat on the cold linoleum floor in front of her not knowing how to respond. This was the day that 26 lives were erased from Newtown, Connecticut. **This sparked a flame inside me that will never die: one that fuels my passion to fight against gun violence.**

After this unforgettable tragedy, I became active on the Gun Violence Prevention and social justice scene. I organized and lead the National School Walkout and I am a founder of my Students Demand Action Chapter which works with Everytown Against Gun Violence. NFTY, if you have ever sat on that cold linoleum floor, the only thing we can do as activists and Jews is to get up, dust ourselves off, and repair the world together as a movement.

**Due to the passion I see in NFTYites to be activists, and the lasting effects that we, as a movement, can have on the world through Tikkun Olam and Tzedek, I, Jessica Becker, declare my candidacy for the 5779 - 5780 NFTY Social Action Vice President.**

Through my experience as a member of the Environmental Justice Task Force, a co-author of social action programming, an alum of the URJ Kutz Camp's Action and Advocacy program and the L'taken Social Justice Seminar, I understand how Judaism and justice work together, and I have seen NFTY's desire to pursue two core values: Tzedek and Tikkun Olam.

As your SAVP, I want to take a three-step approach to Tikkun Olam and Tzedek: **Educate NFTYites, activate a passion, and take action hand in hand.** A goal I have as SAVP is to make sure that all NFTYites receive a comprehensive education on social action issues that each region finds important. By working with the SAVP network to incorporate social action programming tailored to their region's concerns, I will help NFTYites understand how to incorporate Jewish values into their activism. For justice work to begin, flipping a switch inside NFTYites to become passionate about activism, Tzedek, and Tikkun Olam is necessary. I will help facilitate this by connecting the Social Justice Task Forces, such as the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force or the Racial Justice Task Force, to different regions to help ignite a passion for the issue they want to see changed. Finally, it is of the utmost importance to take action together. Seeing our hard work come to fruition, by having NFTYites experience first hand the change they can make, is our ultimate goal as a movement. Taking action can be as big as your region going to a national protest or as small as having your TYG talk to your State Senator or State Representative about bills you want to see become laws in your state.

**Tzedek, tzedek tirdof. Justice, justice you shall pursue. NFTY, let's pursue justice, repair the world, and create change together.**

With love, passion, and determination,

Jessica Becker