



United Poultry Concerns, Inc.

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August 4, 2026

Central Rabbinical Congress of the USA & Canada
85 Division Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11249

Dear Rabbinical Directorate,

On behalf of the Alliance to End Chickens as Kaporos, a project of United Poultry Concerns, we respectfully urge the Central Rabbinical Congress of the USA & Canada to encourage the use of money rather than live chickens for kaporos.

We do not oppose kaporos itself, only the use of live chickens. The severe suffering associated with the transport, handling, confinement, and slaughter of chickens used in kaporos is well documented and, we believe, impossible to reconcile with the Torah-based principle of *Tza'ar Ba'alei Chayim* (causing unnecessary pain to living creatures). In addition, gathering and handling live birds poses public health risks, including potential exposure to avian influenza and salmonella.

The use of money instead of live chickens is a recognized alternative within Jewish tradition. This alternative maintains the spiritual intent of kaporos—*teshuvah* and *tzedakah*—while allowing charitable funds to directly support people in need. To align with Jewish values, we urge you to exercise compassionate leadership by guiding your community to use money instead of live chickens.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you personally at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Liqin Cao
President