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MESSAGE TO EMEK LONE SOLDIERS' INIATIVE AND SEFER TORAH PROJECT

One of the core ideas within Judaism is contained in the famous Talmudic phrase: *Kol yisrael arevim zeh bazeh*, meaning all of Israel are responsible for each other.

This is at the heart of the mission and work of the Emek Lone Soldiers Initiative. By caring and looking out for those who have no other support, we are taking responsibility for them in the most Jewish of ways.

Linking this work to the writing of a Sefer Torah is a beautiful idea. We know that for a Sefer Torah to be kosher, every letter has to be correct, and no letter, word or phrase is more important than any other.

Such is the same with the soldiers who risk their lives in defence of the State of Israel. Each soldier has put himself or herself on the line and as such we, as Am Yisrael, must do everything possible to ensure they are looked after both during and after their service.

I wish all at Emek Lone Soldiers, and specifically the Sefer Torah Project, blessings and best wishes for the future.

Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks April 2018 – Iyar 5778

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