

## EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

**F**AR from being “Judaism-lite”, Progressive Judaism demands actively living Jewish values from its adherents.

The Union for Progressive Judaism (UPJ) is a network of 27 actively Jewish congregations across Australia, New Zealand and Asia, working collaboratively to provide a Judaism that is meaningful to the lives that Jewish people lead today.

Since its beginning in early 19th century Germany, Progressive Judaism grew out of the emancipation from the ghetto in response to a call for religious enlightenment.

Spreading quickly throughout Europe and then North America, it embraced support for the civil rights movement in North America in the 1960s and joined the fight to free fellow Jews in the Soviet Union and later Ethiopia, solidifying social action as a primary tenet.

In 2010, UPJ published *Living Judaism*, a 30-page booklet that outlines the key principles of Progressive Jewish life, including inclusivity and egalitarianism. It affirms that “Torah remains at the heart of any Jewish experience of the world”.

UPJ brings Torah into the world as it strives to fulfil the highest ethical mandates in relationships with others.

UPJ seeks dialogue and joint action with people of other faiths, in the hope that together we can bring peace, freedom and justice to our world.

Pursuing tzedek (justice), UPJ



Photo: Nadine Saacks

acts to narrow the gap between the affluent and the poor, to act against discrimination and oppression, to pursue peace, to welcome the newcomer, to protect the Earth’s biodiversity and natural resources, and to redeem those in physical, economic and spiritual bondage.

The largest Jewish denomination in North America, a 2018 report by the Jewish People Policy Institute found 13 per cent of Israeli Jews – some 800,000 people – identify with the Progressive and Conservative movements, similar to 14 per cent in Australia, according to Gen17.

View/download *Living Judaism*:  
[upj.org.au/learning/publications-and-resources/1037-living-judaism-2nd-edition](https://upj.org.au/learning/publications-and-resources/1037-living-judaism-2nd-edition). Copies can be ordered (\$2 each plus postage) from the UPJ office: [upj@upj.org.au](mailto:upj@upj.org.au)