

## A NEW EMERGENCY SITUATION

After the Torah centers of Europe were destroyed in the Holocaust, barely a few hundred serious Torah students remained. The Rabbinic leadership created a *hora'as sha'ah* (emergency decree) that these young men should be absolved of a man's normal obligations to his family, society and nation, and instead be allowed and supported to develop in Torah. Eighty years later, this has succeeded beyond imagination. The community of serious Torah Jews is hundreds of thousands strong, and there is far more Torah study than at any time in recent history.

However, now there is a new national emergency. Following the Simchas Torah massacre, we are faced with:

- Hundreds of soldiers having been killed and thousands injured, with these burdens shouldered almost exclusively by *dati-leumi* and secular communities;
- Hundreds of thousands of reservists having to leave their families and jobs for many months, causing great social and economic harm;
- Many thousands of young *dati-leumi* men in *mechinot* being pulled away from their single year of Torah study to solve the IDF manpower shortage;
- A need for everyone to serve for longer in regular and reserve IDF service unless there is more enlistment;
- Enormous national war expenses running to tens of billions of dollars, causing great harm to the economy;
- A need for a strong economy and cutting-edge technology, to create and fund a strong IDF that can protect us from Palestinians, Hezbollah, Iran and others.

All this has ramifications for charitable giving. It is not just prioritizing war-related causes. It also means that when supporting people or funding Torah institutions, priority must be given to those people and institutions that integrate Torah study with army service and education towards financial independence and professions that strengthen Israel, rather than those which reject army service and secular education. If you represent such values, we will be happy to assist you financially.

If, on the other hand, you believe that anyone can choose Torah study and prayers as a replacement for physical and material support, then we will support you in kind, by dedicating our Torah study and prayers to your success.