

Hi NFTY-PAR!

My name is Hannah Scott, and I am running to be the Social Action Vice President of the region for the 5779-5780 term. If I haven't had the chance to meet you, let me tell you a bit about myself so you can better understand my interest in becoming the next SAVP. It was during my freshman year that I took my first steps towards advocacy and justice. I had the privilege to attend L'taken, a long weekend spent in DC organized by the Religious Action Center. Over the course of the weekend, I had not only the opportunity to lobby to Congress but to also jump into social action along with my Jewish peers. I have found my voice with the support of my NFTY community by speaking out against homophobia after being targeted, condemning gun violence after my old synagogue had a shooting, marched for immigration rights, and marched with thousands of people in DC in support of Marjory Stoneman Douglas teens and their fight against gun violence. However, behind all these public acts of social action I've had an amazing group of friends supporting me along the way. This group of friends, is you NFTY-PAR. You have given me strength, given me opportunities to be heard, provided me a safe space to voice my thoughts and concerns, and have given me knowledge on social justice issues which sparked a fire inside me. Without the support of NFTY-PAR, I would not have the voice I have today.

Hence I, Hannah Scott am running for Social Action Vice President, so that I can provide a safe place for other teens to voice their concerns and opinions, educate them on issues, empower them to use their voice, and show them the next steps they can take to create change. During my time in NFTY I have heard some of my peers say how they feel as if their opinions are not welcome as they differ from the viewpoint being presented. *If I become your SAVP one of my goals will be to make sure everyone's voice is welcome and heard.* At NFTY-PAR we want to make sure everyone is comfortable and prepared to take the next steps for their cause, and I will make sure to uphold this by educating PARTicipants on the different viewpoints that arise when social justice issues are being discussed in order to know fully about the topic. I encourage my friends to use their voice, to speak up, if they see something that bothers them and that they want to change. *If I become the next SAVP I will continue to encourage all PARTicipants to never shy away from topics that they are passionate about. I will encourage them to use their voice to enact change in their community and on a larger scale.* After learning about so many issues, we often wonder "what we can do to create change?" "What are the next steps?" If I take on the role as social action vice president I will have actions to take prepared after each Tikkun Talk or social action program in order for participants to take the issue they are passionate about back home and **DO** something about it. We, as teens, are so often dismissed when voicing our concerns about these "adult" issues but we **ARE** the change. We have student led movements, such as March For Our Lives, and the opportunity to be heard now. We are the future leaders and voters, and the adults are realizing this. If we are educated about issues, encouraged to use our voice, and are shown what the next steps are at NFTY-PAR then we can use all these together to enact real change about real issues.

B'ahava (with love),
Hannah Scott