



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 29, 2018

**New York City Mission Society Statement on Tree of Life Synagogue Shooting**

(New York, NY) – New York City Mission Society President, Elsie McCabe Thompson, issued the following statement about the Tree of Life synagogue shooting this weekend:

“The atrocious events that unfolded in Pittsburgh this weekend are a stark reminder that we are living in challenging times where diversity is resisted instead of respected. We must seize this moment to sow the seeds of acceptance of others of different backgrounds and beliefs, and understand that our actions today can shape those of the generations of tomorrow.

At Mission, we celebrate diversity in our classrooms and in our communities; it’s this diversity that creates stronger academic environments for our youth, who learn to embrace – and not oppose – differences in thought. We may not always agree with one another, but we can – and should – engage in educated debate based on the principles of fairness, civic engagement, and tolerance. By promoting inclusion and awareness, we enrich our students, our communities, and our lives.”

**About the New York City Mission Society**

The New York City Mission Society has been on the frontlines of the war on poverty for more than 200 years. Today, our progressive portfolio of educational, workforce development, cultural enrichment, and community-building programs, make a positive, long-term impact on the City’s most underserved communities by promoting academic achievement, and providing career opportunities and cultural enrichment. Each year, we serve more than 10,000 children and families throughout New York City with our programs, supportive services, and community events. Learn more at <http://www.nycmissionsociety.org>.