

Statement on Annual Meeting Dates and Scheduling Conflicts

Regarding the 2026 SOFT-TIAFT Annual Meeting

As we look ahead to the 2026 SOFT-TIAFT Annual Meeting, I would like to acknowledge that this year's meeting dates overlap with Yom Kippur. We recognize that this presents a meaningful conflict for some of our members and may affect your ability to fully participate.

The selection of meeting dates is a complex process that begins many years in advance. SOFT typically seeks to secure meeting locations approximately five years ahead of time and issues requests for proposals for dates in September and October. While this provides a target planning window, the actual options available to SOFT are often much more limited. In many cases, venues propose only one viable week that can accommodate the size and needs of the meeting.

At the same time, we are mindful of the many important dates that matter to our global membership, including religious observances, holidays, and professional commitments. As these considerations continue to expand, it has become increasingly challenging to identify dates that avoid all potential conflicts while still securing an appropriate location years in advance.

Please know that SOFT carefully considers these factors each year and makes every reasonable effort to minimize conflicts. However, given the practical constraints involved, there will be times when we are unable to avoid them entirely.

We appreciate your understanding and your continued commitment to the Society. We remain dedicated to supporting our members and will continue to approach meeting planning thoughtfully while balancing the many factors involved.