

## Israel in Crisis: Resources and Communication Suggestions for Educators

### Resources on the conflict and how to speak about it with children

- The Jewish Education Project: [Israel in Crisis: Educator Community Hub](#)
- Unpacked: [Israel at War - Help students unpack the situation in Israel](#)
- URJ: [How to Talk to Children About the Conflict in Israel](#)
- PJ Library: [Israel Hub](#)
- PJ Library: [How to Talk to Your Kids About Scary Situations | PJ Library](#)
- Kveller: [How to Talk to Kids About What's Happening in Israel Right Now](#)
- Ohel: [Managing the trauma for Individuals and Families](#)
- PRIZMAH: [Resources for day schools on terrorist attacks in Israel](#)
- Lookstein Center, Bar Ilan University: [Israel at War. Questions to ask by grade level, and resources translated into Russian, Spanish, German, French and Ukranian](#)
- Westchester Torah Academy: [Slide show with pictures that talks to young children about war in Israel](#)
- Herzog College: [5 min video with a trauma specialist/educator which gives an overview about how to speak to students during crisis](#)

### Suggested language to use in your communication with parents and teachers

- There are no words, messages, thoughts, or prayers that can soften the enormity of the tragedy, fear of the unknown, and reality of what has transpired in our beloved State of Israel. The angst we are feeling for our friends and family and our fears for what will happen in the days and weeks ahead are palpable.

However, it is in the most difficult of times that we, as a community, must come together to give each other strength and demonstrate our unwavering commitment to Israel. First, and foremost, we send our condolences and shed our tears for the families of those who have died, we wish a **refuah shlema** to the thousands of injured, and we pray for the speedy and safe return of those who are kidnapped or missing.

- We stand together with our Israeli friends and family with our feet in the USA and our hearts in our homeland as we convey our unwavering solidarity with the State of Israel.
- Together, we are worried, saddened, and anxious and are praying and hoping for a peaceful resolution. It is crucial that we remain unified and offer one another mutual support. Our commitment to our community and our shared values remains unwavering. As we navigate these turbulent times, please know that we are here for you. If you need someone to talk to, seek information, or simply share your thoughts and concerns, do not hesitate to

reach out. We are here to provide support and create a safe space for open discussion and understanding.

- Horrified by the massive attack on Israeli civilians by Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and now Hezbollah, we stand in solidarity with the people of Israel at this terrifying time. We mourn with the families who are grieving, we pray with those whose loved ones are hospitalized, and we urge the swift return of all captives. We sincerely hope that further suffering for Israelis and Palestinians can be prevented. When this crisis is over, may those who envision a shared and peaceful future find the hope and will to work together for a just and long-term solution to the ongoing conflict.
- We anticipate that this week will pose unique challenges for our community and our students. Our students will have questions and will share news from various sources. In times like these, our strength lies in our unity as a community.
- During this time, students may need guidance from their teachers at school and the adults at home to filter the content they are exposed to and be reassured that our role, as the adults in their lives, is to keep them safe. As a school dedicated to the social-emotional development of our students, we understand and value the need to create a safe space for kids to talk about what they are seeing, hearing and feeling.

### **Suggested language to use in your communication with parents and educators of TEENS**

Our teens have watched bloody scenes of massacres and kidnappings on TikTok and Instagram feeds. Many of them have seen posts by their peers, or those they look up to, sharing content celebrating these murders, demonizing Israel, or justifying the violence. Many have also seen posts that equate all Palestinian people with Hamas or deny the decades of suffering. There are also many conspiracy theories circulating about these events. Adults who work with teens have an important role in helping teens reflect on what they are seeing, process their emotions, find their voice, and connect to sources of meaning and hope.

### **Text from Tefillah (from the end of the traditional *weekday* Torah service) that can be used in your communication:**

אֲחֵינוּ כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל, הַנִּתְּוֹנִים בְּצָרָה וּבִשְׁבִיָּה, הַעֹמְדִים בֵּין בָּיִם וּבֵין בִּיבְשָׁה, הַמְּקוּם יְרַחֵם עֲלֵיהֶם, וַיּוֹצִיאֵם מִצָּרָה לְרִנְחָה, וּמֵאֲפֵלֶה לְאוֹרָה, וּמִשְׁעָבוֹד לְגְאֻלָּה, הַשָּׂמָא בְּעִגְלָא וּבְזֶמֶן קָרִיב

***As for our siblings, the whole house of Israel, who are given over to trouble or captivity, whether they abide on the sea or on the dry land: May the All-present have mercy upon them, and bring them forth from trouble to enlargement, from darkness to light, and from subjection to redemption, now speedily and at a near time.***