



Dear Community Members,

We are writing you today with guidance for the days ahead, both in Israel and at home. Below, you will find guidance and resources for the community. We hope it will be helpful for conversations you are having at work, at school, and with friends and family. We cannot make predictions of where this war will go. We are bracing, along with the rest of the world, for painful and difficult weeks ahead. Scroll down to learn more about specific actions you can take.

## Share This Resource Guide

We encourage you to share this community guidance with your family, friends, and colleagues. Share this on your social media platforms and follow us for additional resources, updates, and program information.

### Community Guidance

The people of Israel – still in shock, still burying its dead, still praying for the return of hostages – are united in calling on their government and the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to ensure the defense of the nation and prevent an atrocity such as this from ever happening again. Following the terror attacks, Israel announced “Operation Iron Swords” and began mobilizing to enter Gaza in order to permanently uproot Hamas.

The people of Gaza have lived under the Hamas terrorist regime since 2007, when it violently overthrew the ruling Fatah faction. They have since been trapped in an absolutist, military state that has no concern for their well-being. Hamas forces carry out appalling crimes against Palestinians: executing dissidents, murdering LGBTQ+ Gazans, and torturing rivals. Instead of building needed infrastructure, **Hamas constructed tunnels to attack Israelis.**

This leaves Israel in the difficult, heart-wrenching position of amassing its young soldiers, along with tens of thousands of veteran reservists from across the country, to enter a war it didn’t want. Hamas intentionally hides in hospitals, schools, and under civilian buildings. It launches rockets from densely populated areas, using their own civilians and hostages as “human shields.” This makes the upcoming military operation extremely difficult and dangerous for both Gazan civilians and Israeli soldiers.

In preparation, the **IDF is dropping countless leaflets** and **hacking Gaza TV stations to call on residents to evacuate** so that it may minimize civilian casualties. In contrast, **Hamas has urged Gazans to stay**

### Antisemitism at Home

The Jewish community has grown increasingly anxious about rising antisemitism, emanating from near and far. The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis and the Safe Indy program are in constant communication with law enforcement and are prepared to confront any threats that may arise. As of now, there have been no credible threats against the Greater Indianapolis Jewish community. We are grateful to our rabbinical leadership for their spiritual and civic guidance.

We also urge schools, universities, employers, and our civic leadership to understand that emotions will be high and people will be scared and hurting. They need to respond with compassion, not political rhetoric, and need to enforce zero tolerance for acts of antisemitism. We need not fight this war at home, and leadership of institutions have a responsibility to create safe environments.

### Report Antisemitism

Community members are advised to utilize the Secure Community Network's incident report form if they

in their homes and has constructed roadblocks to prevent people from leaving. Meanwhile, Egypt is refusing to open its border to refugees. Gazans find themselves in a grim situation.

witness or experience antisemitism.

[Report an Incident](#)

## Resources

The Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis, in partnership with JCRC, has developed an online resource guide that will provide continuously updated resources and information to the local community.

[View Guide](#)

We also invite you to review the JCRC Israel and Middle East Resource Guide, which includes carefully cultivated educational resources, news sites, and analysis.

[View Guide](#)

Below, you will find some additional guidance for how to talk about the war:

### Sample Talking Points

- Hamas' brutal massacre in Israel on October 7 has shaken the Jewish community – and our world.
- In addition to the thousands of lives lost, hundreds have been kidnapped and are being held hostage by Hamas in Gaza. This includes Americans, other foreign nationals, and Israelis - elderly people, infants and children, and entire families. With each day that passes, we grow increasingly worried for the safety of these innocent people.
- Hamas must free innocent civilians held hostage in Gaza.
- On the evening of October 17, a failed rocket from the Islamic Jihad terrorist group misfired, landing outside a Gazan hospital and killing and injuring innocent Palestinians. Hamas immediately blamed Israel, with international media pointing condemnation at Israel. After reviewing the incident, the IDF, and American intelligence, as stated by President Biden, produced conclusive evidence that the damage was from an Islamic Jihad misfired rocket.

### Do's and Don'ts

#### Do:

- Condemn Hamas as a terrorist organization that is committed to killing Israelis and Jews.
- Acknowledge Israel's right to defend itself following a brutal terror attack on its people.
- Make a distinction between the Palestinian people and Hamas and explain that Israel has an obligation to minimize harm to all innocent civilians.
- Demand the unconditional release of the Israeli, American, and other foreign national hostages currently being held by Hamas in Gaza.

- Highlight that the release of the hostages is an essential step toward peace.
- Call out any form of Islamophobia and anti-Arab sentiment. Hate has no place in our society.

**Don't:**

- Conflate the Israeli government with the Israeli people or the global Jewish community, nor Hamas with the Palestinian people.

## Thank Elected Officials and Other Civic and Interfaith Leaders

Take a moment to thank our elected representatives and other civic and interfaith leaders who have stood with the Jewish community and with Israel during this crisis. Let them know how grateful we are for their support.

[Find Your Elected Officials](#)

## Wear a Blue Ribbon for Israel

Consider wearing a blue ribbon from [Blue Ribbons for Israel](#) to show solidarity with the hostages and their families. Blue ribbons will be available at the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis and local synagogues.

## Support Israel

Donate to the Israel Emergency Fund of the Jewish Federations of North America to provide urgently needed assistance to the people of Israel.

[Donate Now](#)

## Attend an Event

### Standing Together in Song

October 21, 2023, 8:15 PM  
Laikin Auditorium, JCC

Standing Together in Song is a communal gathering of music and solidarity with **Dan Nichols**. We encourage you to welcome and honor Shabbat this upcoming Friday in whatever way is most meaningful for you, then join us after Shabbat ends for a beautiful evening of song and togetherness.

[Register Now](#)

Have a question? Contact us at [info@indyjcc.org](mailto:info@indyjcc.org).



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