



Dear Educators,

As we navigate this pivotal moment in our history, it's imperative to acknowledge our capacity to shape our future, even when facing adversaries with harmful intentions. By bestowing our youth with foundational Jewish knowledge, we equip them with the understanding and values necessary to maintain a steadfast and authentic Jewish identity. It's our role to provide an understanding rooted in strength, resilience, and a deeper purpose, ensuring they stand proudly as Jews.

In the upcoming weeks, your students will come across narratives about Israel that diverge from the facts. IsraelLINK emphasizes the significance of education during these challenging times. Research has shown that addressing complex current events with your students strengthens their ability to navigate these issues.

Know that we are here to support you.

Here are six (6) steps that you can take right now:

1. **Proactive Communication:** Be proactive in discussing the current situation with your students before they come across misleading information elsewhere. Review articles together that may contain false news about the events in Israel and encourage open discussions at home.

Speak with your students about what it means to be Jewish for you and your family. To help with that conversation, you can watch [this video](#) to help them see themselves as part of the Jewish story. Additionally, we recommend this [video about Jewish resilience](#) from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks z"l.

2. **Channel Hate Appropriately:** Appropriately channeled hate can be a catalyst for change. It's crucial to help your students understand that their feelings of anger or frustration are valid, but what truly matters is how they choose to respond. Instead of allowing hate to linger in their hearts, encourage them to channel these intense emotions into constructive avenues such as education and awareness. By doing so, they can use their feelings to illuminate the issues

at hand, raise awareness about the presence of sweeping anti-Semitism, and ultimately contribute to positive change.

It is crucial to instill in your students the moral principle that harboring animosity against an entire group, no matter the justification, is unacceptable. Making sweeping statements like "All ___ are..." is harmful and unjust.

3. **Learn Together:** [Explore the "3D's" \(Delegitimization, Demonization, and Double Standards\)](#) together with your students by watching an informative video. This understanding will help them better interpret what they hear and allow them to respond thoughtfully.
4. **Monitor Social Media Exposure:** In today's digital age, children often have access to social media platforms where they might come across distressing videos or contentious discussions. Encourage responsible social media use and set up parental controls to limit their exposure to graphic or upsetting content. Remind them not to engage in online conflicts or "wars."
5. **Stay informed:** Show your support for Israel by considering these actions:
 - Review the [Fact Sheet](#) prepared by the IsraelLINK team.
 - Follow the [StandWithUs Situation Room](#) for up-to-date information. standwithus.com/situationroom
 - Find an in-person or virtual Israel solidarity rally near you with this [Rally Calendar](#).
 - Use a critical lens when reading news articles. If a headline or social media post is clearly taking a biased, antisemitic/Israel position, take the time to identify which of the "D's" (Delegitimization, Demonization, or Double Standards) applies to each narrative.
6. **Do something productive:** Encourage your students to draw upon our Jewish tradition, which emphasizes taking constructive action in response to tragedy. Empower them to redirect their energy into assisting those affected by these events and honoring the lives lost by engaging in acts of kindness and efforts to repair our world. It's a common human experience to feel better when we can make a meaningful and positive impact in the face of grief and helplessness. Here are some options:
 - Contribute to an organization that supports Israel

- [Participate in vigils or community gatherings](#) in support of Israel to foster a sense of unity
- Write to your congressional representatives, expressing unequivocal support for Israel
- [Use this template](#) to write a letter to your public school principal to make sure they are providing the proper support for your students.
- Write thank you letters and/or send videos to soldiers: thankisraelisoldiers.org
- **Collect Tzedakah:** Engage them in collecting charitable donations (*tzedakah*) for organizations that actively work to aid people and support Israel in crisis. Here are suggested *tzedakah* options:
 - **United Hatzalah:** israelrescue.org/donate
 - **Magen David Adom:** afmda.org/donate
 - **Sheba Medical Center**
They have declared a state of emergency. They are massively overwhelmed and need help.
give.afsmc.org/give/525518/#!/donation/checkout
 - **Friends of the IDF:** fidf.org
- **Participate in Religious Rituals:** Participate as a family in religious rituals, such as [prayers for peace and security](#), which can provide solace and a sense of connection to their faith. Below you will find the prayers for: The State of Israel, The IDF, Those Being Held in Captivity, and for Healing.
- **Light Candles in Memory:** Suggest they light candles in memory of those who have tragically lost their lives, a powerful symbol of remembrance and reflection.
- **Support First Responders:** Explore ways to honor and support military, rescue, and medical teams who play vital roles during these challenging times. Thank our Israeli Soldiers to show support: www.thankisraelisoldiers.org

By taking these steps, you can equip your students with the knowledge, values, and critical thinking skills needed to navigate complex and challenging global events while fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy in them.

Am Yisrael Chai,

The IsraelLINK Team