



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
World Zionist Organization

## World Zionist Organization Activity Programs During Iron Swords war Update for 1-7 November 2023

- ❖ **Memorial Service** – Thirty days after the horrific massacre of 7 October, a solemn, moving international memorial service was held in the forecourt of the National Institutions building in Jerusalem, with the participation of Jewish communities around the world, and in Israel, via livestream transmission. The organizations within the National Institutions joined together to honor the memory of the murdered victims together with all those who fell in line of duty, and called for the release of the hostages. The ceremony was livestreamed via the World Zionist Organization Facebook page.



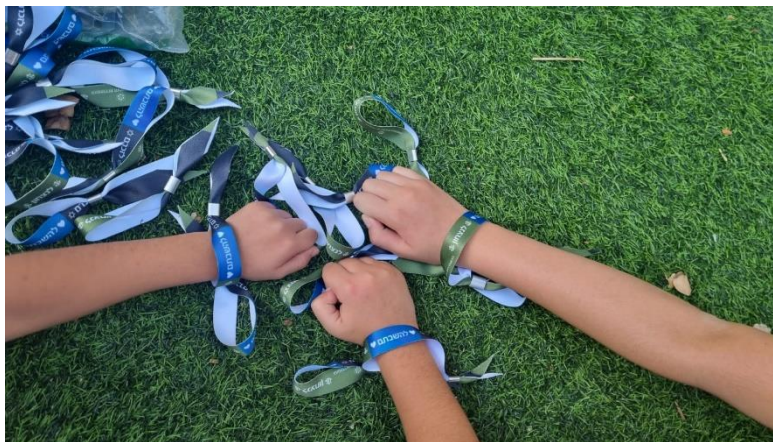


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- ❖ **My Home is Your Home** – The World Zionist Organization continues to spearhead this project, connecting with homeowners in Israel and the Diaspora who have vacant apartments in Israel and are interested in providing rental accommodation for evacuee families who lost their own homes. The process of matching and moving families into apartments is now in full swing. However, the demand for apartments remains high: if you feel you might be interested, please register via the project website at : [My home is your home \(wzo.org.il\)](http://wzo.org.il)



- ❖ **In Memoriam – Bring Them Home – For Victory** – The World Zionist Organization has launched a PR campaign distributing commemorative and morale-boosting bracelets calling for cohesion, unity and victory. The legend on the bracelets focuses on three values:  
In Memoriam – Honoring the memory of the murdered civilians and those who fell in line of duty since the outset of the war.  
Bring Them Home – Encapsulating our hopes and prayers for the safe release of the hostages.  
For Victory – Symbolizing our aspirations to and faith in the eternity of the people of Israel, the victory of its soldiers, and the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil.



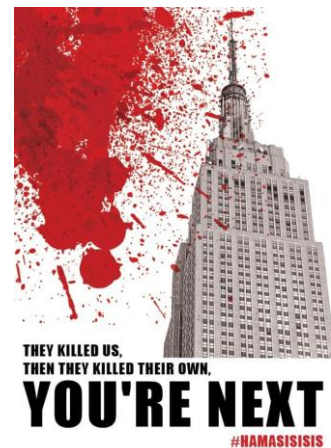
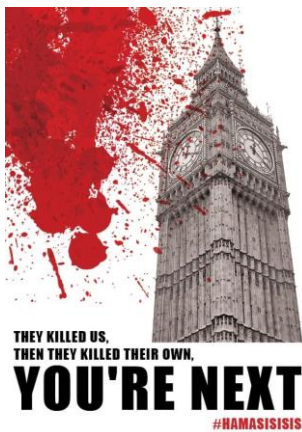
- ❖ **“Generating Waves of Hope”** – This program aims to provide comfort and support to teenagers experiencing emotional trauma as a consequence of the October 7 terrorist assault and the ongoing military conflict. In partnership with “Hagal Sheli” ([Catching the Wave of Life](#) - a non-profit association), the World Zionist Organization has launched an emergency support plan for PTSD victims. There are now already six active support groups for 12-18 year olds from confrontation line communities in the *Shaar Hanegev* (Negev Gateway) and *Eshkol* Regional Council districts.





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- ❖ **“You Are Next” Campaign** – A global campaign focusing on worldwide transmission of an explicit message warning other people that they could well be the next victims. It has been produced as memes with a graphic design and a banner text (in English): *“They killed us, they killed their own - and now you’re next in line”; “ Hamas is ISIS”*. The graphic design backdrop incorporates views from major sites and cities around the world – such as the Eiffel Tower (Paris), the White House (Washington D.C.), Big Ben (London), the Brandenburg Gate (Berlin) and many others. A total of 20 banners, displaying different cities around the world, have been disseminated via social media.



- ❖ **The FOA Movement (Fighting Online Antisemitism)** – A partnership between FOA (an Israeli NGO) and the World Zionist Organization has expanded the scope of monitoring and reporting antisemitic content in cyberspace. FOA is one of the few bodies worldwide reporting daily, and even hourly, in multiple languages and across the major social networks. In recent weeks, a series of webinars have been conducted in Spanish, English and Hebrew, training hundreds of young people around the world how to monitor and report antisemitic content in cyberspace.



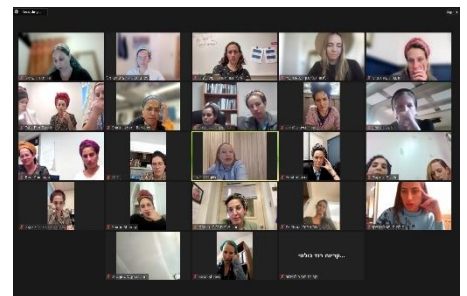


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- ❖ **Special Prayers for the IDF's Success and Military Victory** – A Day of Unity and Prayer was organized, with a program including readings from Tehillim (Psalms). Communities around the world were invited to join the prayers in an act of identification with the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces and for a prayer that they along with the hostages return home safely. Many Jewish communities responded to this special call and participated in the day-long event. Communities who held special Days of Prayer include Miami, Texas, Argentina and Mexico.



- **Teacher *Shlichim* (Emissaries)** – The World Zionist Organization continues its ongoing support for teacher *shlichim* in the Diaspora while providing support in Israel for those who returned in response to emergency call-up orders.
  - A series of weekly Zoom sessions have been organized for the wives of the 44 *shlichim* who returned to Israel after receiving received emergency call-up notices. Guest speakers address different topics each week – among them, media personality and lecturer, Sivan Rahav Meir and comedienne, Revital Vitelzon Jacobs.
  - Some of the *shlichim* who were called up have been visited, either on base or in army facilities at convention centers.
  - A four-session course is being organized for teenagers at Jewish schools in the United States to enable them to present the situation in Israel, covering aspects of *Hasbara* (Israel Advocacy), media usage and development of original materials. On completion of the course, they will meet Israeli teenagers via Zoom and collaborate in the development of new resources.
  - *Shlichim* in the Diaspora receive ongoing support to address three focal areas of concern: didactic and educational issues of the hour; coping with mental and psychological stress related to their geographic remoteness; and coping with escalating Antisemitism.







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- **Embracing IDF Soldiers with Love** – IDF soldiers have been living for weeks - day in, day out - at convention facilities around Israel. They are all missing home, hot meals and a decent shower. The World Zionist Organization is sending two teams of volunteers every day, one to southern Israel and another to the North, transporting portable showers to the convention facilities to offer male and female soldiers the opportunity to freshen up and feel good. The WZO Emergency Center also continues to operate its dedicated parcel service for soldiers, as well as supplying equipment and clothing, and delivering hot meals.



- **Activity Programs in North America**

- A number of memorial activities were held in the presence of elected and notable local figures to mark the *Shloshim* – the 30<sup>th</sup> day – since the Black Shabbat of October 7 and the outbreak of war (Operation Iron Swords). The distinguished guests and participants included Michael Novakhov, member of the New York State Assembly from the 45<sup>th</sup> District, Professor Eyal K. Levit, heads of Jewish communities, Ulpan teachers and students.
- A pro-Israel Rally honoring the victims of the Hamas attack was held in Central Park, New York in conjunction with UJA, JCRC, AZM, IAC and other organizations.

- ❖ **Activity Programs in Latin America**

- A memorial service was held for the victims of terror in southern Israel by *Ulpan* teachers and students at the Sholem Aleichem Zionist Jewish Center (*Centro Israelita Sionista Sholem Aleikhem*) in Buenos Aires.
- The “*Uf Gozal*” (*Fly the Nest*) project, an umbrella supporting parents whose children made Aliyah on their own, organized a meeting with Eyal Sela, Israel’s Ambassador to Argentina.
- A 10-day exhibit was held in Rosario featuring posters of the abductees with a full-length mirror under the banner, “*This could be you.*”





### ❖ Activity Programs in Europe

- World Zionist Organization representatives were sent on *shlichut* to France, where they held a series of interviews on Jewish radio stations, attended encounters with Jewish communities and at the La Relève center, lectured at a conference in Bordeaux and addressed synagogues, as well as other forums. Connections were also established with small communities, such as Libourne, La Rochelle and Arcachon.
- A deeply moving encounter was held via Zoom with massacre survivor Ronit Goldberg of Kibbutz Nahal Oz, who addressed hundreds of members from the French Jewish community.
- The “Aliyah Track” (a preparation course for the Israeli Psychometric test in French, combined with an intensive *Ulpan* and an official Psychometric test on completion) added specialized content to its program in the wake of events in Israel, to train and provide young people with pro-Israel advocacy tools; the course was also expanded in terms of Zionist content.
- Three *Shloshim* memorial events for the massacres in southern Israel were held at World Zionist Organization Hebrew *Ulpanim* in Great Britain (Brighton, Bushey, and JW3.)

- ❖ Distribution of Board Games to Evacuated Children - The World Zionist Organization purchased hundreds of board games of different types for evacuee children, via the Israel Zionist Council. The games have now been distributed to the various evacuation centers around Israel and are intended for the children themselves, providing some degree of normality in the complex situation they are experiencing and enabling them to engage independently in leisure activities.







❖ **The “Tzameret” Gar’in Volunteers with Evacuees** - The

Israel Zionist Council’s National Service volunteer *Gar’in* (core group) has been consistently active at a number of support centers since the initial outbreak of hostilities.

They have assisted in sorting and packing equipment crates to requirement specifications in the field; traveled to volunteer at Barzilai Hospital in Ashkelon as support staff for medical personnel; and even helped out as babysitters for families where one parent has been called up for

emergency military service. In addition, volunteers have helped render bomb shelters fit for purpose, helped out at local emergency operations centers, and continue to live alongside evacuee families in the major centers, where they provide recreational activities and informal education frameworks for children of evacuated families.



❖ **The Ami-Chai Pre-Military Academy Steps Up** - Participants in the

Israel Zionist Council’s Pre-Military Academy program have been dispersed around Israel across a large number of voluntary projects.

They have been setting up kindergartens, aiding parents where one spouse has been called up for emergency military service, assisting doctors, supporting kibbutz security patrols, running a day camp at Sheba Hospital for children of medical personnel, as well as volunteering for agricultural work, food packaging, transportation, food preparation, clothing donations, and much more. These young men and women have also volunteered at hotels by the Dead Sea, where they compiled extensive case notes on the assistance requirements of elderly evacuees.



❖ **Volunteering Among Druze Society** – Since the outbreak of hostilities,

Druze society has engaged in a wide variety of voluntary work activities. Through the Israel Zionist Council, the World Zionist Organization continues to support the home front – through collection and distribution of equipment, and by providing recreational activities that help people unwind. This has been made possible thanks to cooperation with the department at “*Eshkolot*” alongside the mobilization by Druze teenagers to volunteer for projects and assignments.

Many Druze villages have also contributed food crates and equipment and provided transport to deliver them to soldiers serving on bases in northern Israel. A blood donor drive was held in the village of Maghar and members of the Druze community have also traveled to hospitals to visit those wounded in the hostilities.





- ❖ **Volunteering in Southern Israel** – Over one hundred members of the World Zionist Organization’s youth movements spent a week in Eilat, where they volunteered in a range of sectors that became essential in that locality, due to the large numbers of inhabitants of Israel’s Gaza border region who were evacuated there. Participants are all students at the “*Machon*” – the Institute for Leaders from Abroad – a program under the joint auspices of the Jewish Agency, Keren Kayemeth Lelsrael, the international Zionist youth movements and the World Zionist Organization. Part of the group has been studying at Kiryat Moriah in Jerusalem, while the others have been based on Kibbutz Ketura. They have also engaged in voluntary work across a range of spheres, such as agricultural jobs on *kibbutzim*, *moshavim* or small farms; assistance with packaging parcels; running activities for evacuee children and adults in hotels; working at urban call centers, especially for Spanish-speaking callers and others. All these participants serve as *madrachim* (counselors) in their respective youth movements in the Diaspora.
- ❖ **The World WAY Initiative** – A video clip has been created and produced by members of Zionist youth movements worldwide, with the message, *Bring Them Home*. It was co-produced by all the different movements from around the world, following an appeal by the Zionist Youth Movement Council to contact local movements to involve their own members actively. The film clip can be viewed at the following link: <https://youtu.be/TAF3rYc9ymA>
- ❖ **Activity at the Z3 Project Conference** – The Z3 Project conference was held recently in Palo Alto, California. The conference schedule included a seminar for young representatives of all youth movements active in the USA, along with the respective movements’ directors and professional coordinators. Within this seminar, World Zionist Organization representatives ran a series of pivotal activities on the war and the situation in Israel today.

