



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

World Zionist Organization Activity Programs During Iron Swords war **Update for 7-14 November 2023**

❖ My Home – Your Home

As part of the mobilization for the national and #Zionist cause, we continue to find temporary homes for families who were evacuated and who need security and quiet.

The initiative has already received commitments from hundreds of families from Israel and abroad, who offered their vacant homes to displaced families for a period of three months, until a permanent solution is found. The World Zionist Organization guaranteed, under a binding legal agreement, the return of the apartments to their owners in the condition in which they were received.

Israel's President Yitzhak Herzog is an active supporter of this program. Following is the President's emotional call to apartment owners from Israel and the Diaspora to participate in this important mission. Click here to Watch Israel's President Yitzhak Herzog video:



Click here for further information and registration: [My home is your home \(wzo.org.il\)](https://wzo.org.il)



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

- ❖ **Memorial Service** – To mark the 30th day since the brutal massacres and unspeakable atrocities of October 7, a moving international memorial service was conducted at the National Institutions with the participation of over 120 Jewish communities from around the world as well as Israel. The full recording of the service is available here:



An edited 3-minute edited clip is available here: [Sheloshim Memorial Service for Victims of the brutal October 7 Massacres - Edited clip](#)

- ❖ **Support for Families of the Hostages** – The World Zionist Organization and the Jewish Agency for Israel stand with the families of the hostages: all the babies, children, the elderly, the men and women, who were abducted into darkness by Hamas, a brutal terror organization – and we pray day and night for their welfare and safe release. The façade of the National Institutions building is illuminated by night with images of all the hostages and a banner that reads: **BRING THEM HOME.**



We invite you to view the illuminated façade on Facebook, Instagram and Tik-Tok at the following links:

<https://www.facebook.com/wzo.official/videos/842717257599942>

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/CzJ9bJZMWtJ/?igshid=NjZ6d2x3ZHZsajN2>

https://www.tiktok.com/@wzo.official/video/7296950347484908802?_r=1&t=8hK2Jdtjusb



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

- ❖ **Fact Finding Mission of the Zionist Executive in Southern Israel** – Members of the World Zionist Organization Executive traveled to Kibbutz Kfar Aza to view first-hand the areas where the massacre and destruction occurred. They were accompanied by Doron Libstein, brother of the late Ofir Libstein, Head of the Sha'ar HaNegev Regional Council who was murdered on October 7th. They also visited Kibbutz Nir Oz, where they met Reuma and Gadi Kedem, parents of the late Tamar Kedem-Simantov, who was murdered in the family's home, as were her husband, their three children and *savta* Carol. The fact-finding mission brought home to them the enormity of the appalling atrocities and widespread destruction. They were able to smell the lingering stench of fire, see the charred landscape and shells of buildings, feel horror at the number of lives taken by the hand of a merciless, ruthless enemy. Following this, the Executive visited the Netivot municipality Emergency Command Center; the final stop was a professional visit to the *Tekuma* Authority, the new government body charged with rebuilding Israel's border region adjacent to the Gaza Strip.



- ❖ **Legal FAQ Booklet** – In conjunction with the International Legal Forum (ILF), a legal FAQ booklet has been compiled and published in English, providing summary answers to focal, current legal issues related to Israel's state of war against terrorist organizations as well as addressing escalating Antisemitism. The booklet includes photographic images and statistics. It addresses a series of pivotal questions, beginning with: *Who is Hamas?*; *Does Israel have right to self-defense under Law?*. In response to the demand from Spanish-speakers for a similar resource, the booklet will be published in Spanish in the near future.

This resource is available for download from the following link:

[FAQs on International Law- the Hamas Massacre and Israel's Response \(wzo.org.il\)](https://www.wzo.org.il/FAQs-on-International-Law-the-Hamas-Massacre-and-Israel's-Response)



הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

❖ **Kristallnacht Memorial Programs** – To commemorate 85 years since Kristallnacht and one month since the October 7 massacres, all Diaspora communities were invited to leave the lights on overnight in synagogues between October 9 and 10, hold special prayers for the safe return of the hostages, civilian and military, and take action to raise awareness about escalating Antisemitism.



❖ **Security Precautions Video for Communities** – In light of the surge in the numbers of antisemitic incidents worldwide, it is essential that everyone should be on the watch for relevant signs and create heightened security awareness in Jewish and Israeli communities in the Diaspora. A short video was produced in English and French, focusing in on the need to remain alert to one's surroundings, suspicious objects or people, keep a safe distance and report on incidents.

The English video is available on [Be Aware, We Care 30s - YouTube](#)

The French video is available on [Be Aware, We Care \(French\) 30s - YouTube](#)

❖ **Fighting Online Antisemitism (FOA)** – The World Zionist Organization's partnership program with FOA, an NGO which monitors and reports antisemitic content in cyberspace, has rolled out several training seminars in recent weeks - in Spanish, English and Hebrew. Last week, two new groups were opened in German, training hundreds of young people how to monitor and report antisemitic content in cyberspace.



❖ **Embracing Israeli Soldiers with Love** – The World Zionist Organization mobile shower transporters were on the road again this week, traveling around convention facilities in northern and southern Israel where IDF soldiers have been stationed. For many people serving in the IDF, this was the first opportunity to shower in over two weeks and the mobile shower units ensured they had time to freshen up and enjoy a hot shower with clean towels, new underwear – and even haircuts, where required. Bringing them a little bit of home, wherever they may be... The team were moved to tears by all the appreciation and thanks from the soldiers.





הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization



❖ **Activity Program for Shoah (Holocaust) Survivors** – The World Zionist Organization continues its collaboration with “*Zikaron BaSalon*” (“*Fighting to Remember*”), organizing home visits to Holocaust survivors ahead of the weekend break. For a second time, dozens of volunteers visited hundreds of Shoah Survivors in their homes before Shabbat, to help alleviate their feeling of isolation.

❖ **Activity Programs for Evacuee Children** – The activity program for evacuee children and visits to their hotels is ongoing. It recently included an encounter for the basketball enthusiasts among them, with a visit by a talent scout for one of the major teams in the NBA. After a brief talk about his work, he presented the children with a range of promotional gift items donated by US basketball teams.



❖ **Hasbara (Public Diplomacy) Activity Programs** – The World Zionist Organization maintains an ongoing collaboration with the Tel Aviv Institute in the area of *Hasbara* on social media and the different networks. For the past month, the Institute has been working together with about 100 leading Jewish digital influencers from around the world (primarily, from the US and the UK), in relation to the outbreak of war. It has been offering guidance on crafting pro-Israel messages and content, through posts that bring trustworthy information. Across Instagram, Twitter and Tik Tok, these opinion leaders have been publicizing the issue of the hostages and debunking the lies disseminated across social media by Hamas. They have already succeeded in reaching over 100,000,000 users with their content.





❖ Activity Programs in Latin America

- In Brazil and Argentina, chained teddy bear exhibits were created to raise awareness of the child hostages abducted into Gaza.
- In Buenos Aires, a truck with LED panels traveled around the city displaying photos of the hostages and calling to **Bring Them Home**.
- A music recital of solidarity with Israel was held at the *Teatro Gran Rex* in Buenos Aires.
- A series of informative talks for members of Jewish communities has been delivered via Zoom, addressing a range of issues related to the current crisis in Israel, including: “Jerusalem, a city for life,” “News time,” “I’m staying put” (a short video explaining why *olim* prefer to remain in Israel), and “The war that revealed the face of Israeli society.”
- A Communications Center is now operational, which acts as a hub for the Jewish community’s activity vis-à-vis the local population (in coordination with the Israel Embassy) and produces *Hasbara* content in Spanish and easy Hebrew for the general public, the Jewish communities, and *Ulpan* students, with an emphasis on speaker events and Israel advocacy. The team is also collaborating on *Hasbara* content for communities, with a primary focus on the campaign to bring the hostages home. It adjusts the messages for each of the target populations, assists in writing the content, graphic layout, *inter alia*.
- World Zionist Organization *Ulpanim* in Argentina have all included one Hebrew language class “given” by Rachel, from Ofakim.





❖ Activity Programs in Europe

- Hundreds of viewers from French Jewish communities attended a live online encounter with an Israeli security expert who spoke about Antisemitism as a phenomenon.
- World Zionist Organization *Ulpan* teachers in France came to Paris for a CNN TV interview.
- World Zionist Organization representatives attended the mass protest rally against Antisemitism, held in Paris.
- In Great Britain, the World Zionist Organization representative has participated in *Hasbara* programs with the Israeli communities' forum, which have included printing and distributing posters of the hostages, providing assistance in dealings with officialdom, *inter alia*.
- Jonathan Tyler, one of the World Zionist Organization *Ulpan* teachers in the UK, toured a number of Jewish schools with an Arab colleague, as part of a pro-Israel *Hasbara* campaign.
- Also in the UK, the series of weekly *Hasbara* encounters continues with Ashley Perry, former consultant to various Israel government ministries, researcher, lecturer and publicist.
- In Germany, approximately 50 local teenagers active in the ZWST (Central Welfare Board of Jews in Germany) attended a seminar. In the wake of the October 7 events, the program was largely related to the crisis in Israel, with calls to “free the hostages now”; other focuses included addressing Jewish identity and Judaism as a culture. World Zionist Organization representatives attended the encounter to empower participants by imparting leadership tools and methodologies appropriate for leadership in the Jewish and wider world.
- The “Israeli Cultural Center” in Budapest serves many Israelis presently living in Budapest due to tension in Israel, who feel the need to come together and are interested in attending activity programs for adults and children. The World Zionist Organization representative *in situ* began collections of books and games and started up a small lending library for Hebrew books. This project came together in response to needs in the field; it has enabled Israeli families to spend time playing games and reading; to borrow books or enjoy a cup of coffee; it has also effectively created a space where children and families can get together.





❖ Activity Programs in North America

- Extensive *Hasbara* marathons have been organized in conjunction with the Jewish Agency and local partners; other activities have included pro-Israel exhibits and **Bring Them Home** displays.
- A major, pro-Israel mass rally was held in Washington DC this week: this was also an integral part of the ongoing *Hasbara* campaign for Israel and Aliyah promotion activity.
- AZM held its Biennial National Assembly, leading with a clear emphasis on support for Israel.



- ❖ Activity Programs in Australia and New Zealand – An online session via Zoom was held for Israelis living in Australia and New Zealand, with a view to delivering *Hasbara* tools suitable for social media, and enabling open discussion about what it means to be an Israeli abroad when Israel is at war. The guest speaker on *Hasbara* tools was David Saranga, who heads the Division for Digital Diplomacy at the Israel Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

- ❖ The Forum for Families of the Hostages and MIAs – The WZO is working with the *Forum for the Families of the Hostages and MIAs* and providing support for the Forum’s “overseas HQ” through Zionist Federations and Israeli communities around the world, to help with opening local centers in the Diaspora to coordinate the Forum’s activities in each country. One feature of this cooperative venture is the Zionist Federations’ assistance to the Forum in the distribution of materials, *Hasbara* and public diplomacy. This umbrella also enabled Inbal Tzach, whose family has seven members who were abducted from Kibbutz Beerli, to go on a speaking tour in Bulgaria. Inbal met with the Jewish community, was interviewed on TV and radio, and spoke at an exhibit to publicize the issue of the hostages; she also met with public figures.





הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

❖ **Unity Shabbat** – This is the third weekend when many Jewish communities have held a Unity Shabbat. For Toronto, this was a first-time event, with an Israeli Kabbalat Shabbat at the “Holy Blossom” Reform Temple. Almost one hundred Israelis of varying ages attended from the Toronto area. They came together to mark the *Sheloshim* since the atrocities, with songs, prayers, as well as Friday night dinner. Roman Lisovoy, whose parents z”l were murdered on the Black Shabbat when they went fishing off Zikim beach, joined the group for the Kabbalat Shabbat. He shared their story and recited the Kaddish prayer with the community. The event was welcoming, meaningful and brimful with community spirit.

In Budapest, two Kabbalat Shabbat events have been held by Jewish communities hosting Israelis – one in the Reform community and the other in the Neolog community.

Toronto:



Prague:



Amsterdam with the Scouts Movement:



❖ **In their memory, for their return, for victory** - Especially now, it is more important than ever to uplift the spirit of the security forces and the people of Israel. As an expression of support and shared destiny of the people of Israel The World Zionist Organization have created commemorative, prayer and spirit strengthening bracelets, to be worn in Israel and in other places in the world, in order to spread the feeling of togetherness, unity and victory that accompany our people especially these days. The bracelets consist of three values: in their memory - in memory of the murdered; For their return - the prayer for the return of all the abductees; And for victory - our ambition and confidence in the eternity of the people of Israel and its soldiers. The bracelets arrive all the way to the USA to spread the news! Together we shall spread the hope that we need so much now. Order now: [Commemorative Prayer and Spirit-Strengthening Bracelets \(wzo.org.il\)](https://www.wzo.org.il)





❖ **The Settlement Division** – The Division continues to operate in the region bordering the Gaza Strip, mapping community needs and working to bolster community resilience. It maintains constant contact with the respective councils and the communities’ own leadership.

❖ **Embracing the Gaza Border Communities** – The Zionist Council in Israel continues its activity

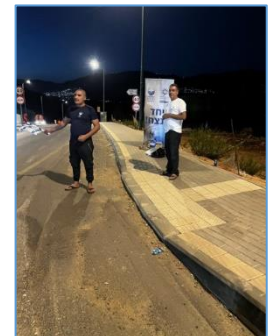
under this umbrella, providing relaxation programming for evacuated families. One of the numerous events this week was an encounter with actor Tal Mosseri. Tal, a popular star of children’s TV shows, came to Kibbutz Lavi and Kfar Tabor to entertain evacuated children.



An evening community activity also took place at Kibbutz Shefayim, where the majority of Kfar Aza’s survivors have been temporarily relocated, with a focus on sports and a show of support for the Israel national football team during its away game against Kosovo. The event was held in their own recreation of “*Hapubushka*,” the Kfar Aza neighborhood pub, in the hotel lobby.

❖ **Activity Programs in Druze Society** –

In several Druze communities and villages, Israel Zionist Council representatives went out on the streets in numbers, distributing Israeli flags to passers-by in a symbolic, morale-boosting action to help strengthen Israel’s social spirit.



❖ **“Tzameret” National Voluntary Service Gar’in (Core group) Activities on Behalf of Evacuees** –

National Service volunteers from the Israel Zionist Council’s *Tzameret gar’in* continue their activity toward the war effort. The range of voluntary activities by NS volunteers with evacuees from the border region with the Gaza Strip have focused on running educational frameworks and developing activities to help them unwind. The volunteers plan and run all-day activities for children within formal education as well as providing a variety of informal activities. This allows parents to take a restorative break as well as giving them time to begin thinking about rebuilding their lives.





הסתדרות הציונית העולמית
World Zionist Organization

- ❖ **Cultural and Recreational Activity Programs for Evacuees** – “*Tarbut LeYisrael*” (“Culture for Israel”), a World Zionist Organization subsidiary company, continues to provide cultural activities and entertainment for large groups of evacuees around Israel.

