

Antisemitism Power Point Talking Points

As you lean into discussions on antisemitism, it's important to remain calm. Be open and honest. Lean into people asking questions, even if they inadvertently say something wrong.

Key Facts/Points to learn:

Israel & Judaism

- About the size of New Jersey, 9.3 million people
- Israel population- 9.4 million people, including 20% Arab population with full citizenship
- **Jews have lived in the land of Israel CONTINUOUSLY for 4,000 years**
- **JEws in the diaspora (living outside of Israel) continued to think of Israel as their homeland up through it becoming a country**
- We say "Next Year in Jerusalem" at the end of every major holiday
- Israel, Jerusalem, and key cities throughout Israel are mentioned in many prayers and in the Torah

Founding of Israel

- Israel was officially founded in 1948
- Theodore Hertzl: Considered the father of Zionism. Promoted immigration to what is now Israel starting in the last 1800s, up until his death in 1904.
 - He hosted the First Zionist Congress in Switzerland. Now called the World Zionist Congress.
 - He founded the World Zionist Organization
 - He founded Jewish National Fund (JNF)- originally a way to buy land in Israel to help promote immigration. Now they focus on building a vibrant future for the state of Israel, but many Americans know they primarily for their tree planting work
- 3 key moments before the official founding in 1948:
 - 1917 Balfour Declaration- A public pledge by the British to establish a Jewish state in the territory then known as Palestine
 - League of Nations, British Mandate for Palestine in 1922, creating a plan to create a Nation for both Jews and Arabs in a large territory that is now Israel and Jordan (plus a little beyond).
 - United Nations Partition Plan of 1947: Adopted in November of 1947, it would create 2 nations in what is now Israel: a Jewish state and an Arab state.

- Jewish leadership participated and collaborated; Arab leadership boycotted

Democracy

- Considered only functional democracy in the Middle East
- All citizens allowed to vote (21% not Jewish)
- 23 Islamic Countries, 1 Jewish Country
- None of the Islamic countries are democracies
- Israel protects the rights of all citizens to practice their religion and also protects all holy sights - temple mount, dome of the rock

Key Players

- Iran and its Axis of Resistance
 - Using other players to weaken and hurt Israel
 - Hezbollah - southern Lebanon
 - Hamas - Gaza
 - Houthis - Yemen
 - Right now all at the weakest they've ever been due to Israel
 - All considered terrorist organizations by U.S. government
- Palestine Liberation Organization
 - Founded 1964
 - Represented Palestinians, led by Yassir Arafat until 2004
 - Mahmoud Abbas took over leadership 2004
 - Hamas grew in prominence and power and in 2006 took control of Gaza Strip
 - PLO remain in control of West Bank

Terrorism and Wars against Israel

- Hebron Massacre of 1929: Arab members attacked a small town of Jews. Murdering nearly 70 people, more than 100 injured and Jewish homes + Synagogues were ransacked.
- War of Independence, 1948: attacked by 7 Arab countries following the Declaration of Statehood
- Six Day War, 1967: In response to Egypt closing the Straits of Tiran and positioning troops on the border in preparation for war
- El Al hijacking, 1968 (Entebbe)
- Yom Kippur War, 1973: Egypt and Syria attacked on the holiest day of the Jewish Calendar
- First Intifada, 1987-1990: Uprising, Protests devolved into violence

- Second Intifada, 2000: Following the Palestinian rejection of the Camp David Accords
- Gaza Operations, 2008-2009; 2012; 2014;
 - in response to escalating attacks by Hamas on Israel, particularly civilians via terrorist attacks and rocket fire
- Oct 7-present

Peace Efforts— In all instances Israel accepted; PLO rejected

- UN Resolutions following Six Day War and Yom Kippur War
- Camp David Accords, 1978
- Oslo Accords
- Camp David Summit, 2000
- Disengagement and total Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, 2005
 - ultimately resulted in Hamas winning election and violently pushing out the Fatah party of the PLO
- Trump Peace Plan, 2020

October 7

- 1200+ men, women & children murdered; hundreds more injured
- Largest massacre of Jews since the Holocaust
- Included 46 Americans and citizens from more than 30 countries
- Women and girls brutally sexually assaulted
- Tens of thousands remain displaced
- Hamas took 251 Hostages into Gaza
- Dead Israelis were dragged through the streets of Gaza. Naked hostages were driven through Gaza.
- The depravity of Hamas's crimes is almost unspeakable.

Since October 7

- Israel launched a ground offensive in late October 2023
- Civilian-to-Military deaths ratio among the lowest in wartime history - approaching 1:1
- More than 40,000 rockets have been launched at Israel from Gaza (Hamas), Lebanon (Hezbollah), Yemen (Houthi), and Iran
- More than 90,000 Israelis displaced in Northern Israel (rockets)
 - This is the equivalent to everyone living in Gahanna, Westerville, Bexley and New Albany being displaced and unable to go home.
 - Horrible devastation of the region due to constant rocket attacks
- Israel entered southern Lebanon attacking Hezbollah in summer of 2024

- Ceasefire entered with Hezbollah November 2024

Hostages

- 251 taken hostage into Gaza
- 63 Still held Captive
- 117 - Returned alive
 - 105 through the Nov 2023 ceasefire
 - 8 rescued in summer 2024
 - 4 released by Hamas
- 71 - Killed
 - 34 bodies remain in Gaza

Rise of Antisemitism

- In 2023, there were 8,873 anti-semitic incidents across the US, a 140% increase over the year before.
- Since Oct 7 this phenomenon has increased by **over 300%**
- More antisemitic incidents October 7th, 2023 - January 7th, 2024 than there were the entire year of 2022.
- Jews are targeted in public, at homes, at synagogues, and in the workplace
- In 2023: 62% of religiously motivated hate crimes against Jews, yet Jews represent 2% of the population
- 70% of Jewish students report facing at least one form of antisemitism
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The Impact of Antisemitism

- Jews are increasingly harassed and ostracized in high schools, on college campuses and even on-line.
- **Jews have been physically attacked when displaying Jewish symbols and/or appearing in traditional orthodox dress.**
- **Rising cases of Jews are being discriminated against in professional associations and in the workplace**

What Can You Do?

- Antisemitism or Jew Hatred is not just a Jewish problem
- It is often considered the oldest form of prejudice and serves as a foundational hatred that can pave the way for other forms of bigotry and discrimination against different groups
- Antisemitism normalizes the idea of blaming an entire population for societal problems, which can then be applied to other minority groups.
- Speak up, say something

- Educate yourself (today!)
 - Learn the facts
 - This war is about an existential threat to Israel's very existence and the right for Jews to have their own homeland.
 - This is not about white colonists oppressing people of color
 - This is a war on Western Civilization, where extremist Jihadis are seeking to destroy Democracies.
- Celebrate Jewish culture with your neighbors/friends
- Advocate against antisemitism and anti-Zionism
- Advocate to protect the security of Jewish agencies

IHRA

- Support efforts to codify the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance or IHRA definition of antisemitism at the Federal, State and Local Level.
- It provides a widely recognized and standardized framework for identifying and addressing antisemitic acts, helping to educate the public, institutions, and authorities on what constitutes antisemitism.
- It enables better monitoring and combating of antisemitic behaviors across different contexts and regions.
- Governor DeWine has issued an Executive Order accepting the IHRA definition, but that can only go so far.
- Working now on passing this definition into law at the Federal, State and/or local levels to help combat and prevent the issues we've seen nationwide and here in Columbus.