

Women of Reform Judaism Stands with Israel

Our hearts are breaking. This weekend, as we celebrated Shabbat and Simchat Torah, we woke up to the horror of Hamas' brutal assault on Israel's people. Hundreds of people and counting have been murdered, injured, and kidnapped.

Many of you may have family and friends in Israel, perhaps directly impacted by this war. Your WRJ sisters are here to support you and your loved ones during this difficult time. We have been in direct contact with our Reform movement leadership, partners, and YES Fund grantee organizations in Israel, assuring everyone's wellbeing and expressing our care.

Although we have publicly disagreed with the actions of Israel's current leadership, Women of Reform Judaism's support for Israel remains steadfast. Our thoughts are with the millions of Israelis and Palestinians who are now in harm's way due to Hamas' attacks over the weekend.

Here's what we can do in this moment:

- Watch a recording of [the Reform Movement's emergency briefing](#) for helpful resources. Over 6,500 participants attended the webinar.
- Read and share [WRJ's statement](#) condemning the kidnappings and other war crimes targeting women, children, and the elderly by Hamas.
- Make sure to follow [WRJ Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for helpful updates and additional resources.
- [Urge President Biden and Congress to continue supporting Israel](#) (for those in the U.S.). The major "asks" differ slightly depending on the recipient: 1) Condemn Hamas' terrorist action; 2) Call for the immediate release of hostages from the Gaza Strip; 3) Encourage a swift end to the war, to minimize the loss of life and destruction that is devastating to Israelis and Palestinians alike; 4) (*For the Senate*) Quickly confirm an Ambassador to Israel. The template messages are editable, and we encourage people to customize their messages with personal values and lived experiences.
- Donate. We want to support our friends and our grantees. Our partners at Jewish Federations of North America have set up [an emergency fund](#) to support those in need. And as always, [supporting our YES Fund](#) enables us to maintain our enduring commitment to Israel.
- Educate. The Jewish Education Project is hosting a webinar on October 10 on how to talk to children about Israel for anyone who would like to join. [Register here](#). A HUC faculty member also wrote [this helpful breakdown](#).
- Remember to breathe. The Blue Dove Foundation compiled [mental health and wellness resources](#) to help digest the news of the day. BetterHelp [is also offering](#) six months of free online therapy to people who have been impacted by the war in Israel.

- Pray. This is a moment to offer up prayers for peace and safety. We are including [a prayer written by WRJ Executive Director Rabbi Liz P.G. Hirsch](#) in support of the captive and [a prayer from Rabbi Mira Regev](#) in support of the State of Israel and the Israel Defense Forces.