

# Day Of Freedom: Demanding Freedom In The Footsteps Of MLK

## Facilitator Guide

How might we connect between MLK day and the hostage situation in Gaza?



Martin Luther King Jr.

### Info For Facilitator



#### Target Audience:

Middle school, Teens, Adults



#### Length Of Program

45-60 minutes



#### Materials & Prep:

- Set up around the room: Large posters, each with one of the following words: PEACE, VOICE, FREEDOM, MORALITY, SECURITY, DEMOCRACY
- Post it notes
- Magic markers
- Pens
- Scissors
- Tape
- Printed source sheet

### FRAMING THE ISSUE

The 100th day in captivity almost exactly coincides with MLK day. Martin Luther King Jr. taught us important lessons about freedom and fighting for justice, which can inform our actions today and raise awareness about freeing the hostages. How can we learn from MLK to use our words to bring a voice to our movement? Who might be our allies? What can we do EVERY day?

## LET'S EXPLORE

### Opening

- *Facilitator invites participants to take turns reading quotes about freedom and justice out loud. Facilitator introduces the session with the framing above and the following introduction:*

Each year, U.S. Jews, like other Americans, mark Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by remembering him as a powerful voice against racism and for civil rights. Dr. King was also something else: a uniquely important ally in the fight against antisemitism and for a secure Israel. Dr. King spoke and wrote often about Israel.

"Israel's right to exist as a state is incontestable," Dr. King wrote.

In a March 25, 1968, speech to the Rabbinical Assembly, Dr. King said:

"Peace for Israel means security, and we must stand with all our might to protect its right to exist, its territorial integrity. I see Israel as one of the great outposts of democracy in the world, and a marvelous example of what can be done, how desert land can be transformed into an oasis of brotherhood and democracy. Peace for Israel means security and that security must be a reality."

Less than two weeks later, on April 4, Dr. King was murdered while organizing support for striking sanitation workers in Memphis, TN.

### Activity

- *Show the participants the posters hanging around the room, each with one of the following words: PEACE, VOICE, FREEDOM, MORALITY, SECURITY, DEMOCRACY*
- *Ask each participant to write the definition for each of the words on separate post-its and place the definition on the appropriate poster.*
- *When everyone has posted all their definitions, have a gallery walk to read all the definitions.*
- *Divide the participants into six groups (one group for each word). Each sub-group should review all the definitions and write one new overarching definition incorporating the various themes from the post-its.*
- *Write the new definition on the big poster with the word.*
- *Bring the group back together. Facilitator asks each group to share their new definition with the bigger group.*
- *Lead a discussion:*
  - How might we connect each word with the current hostage situation.
  - What are the shared values?

### Learning

- *Divide into pairs or small groups to learn the source sheet together, and answer the questions under each text.*

# TAKE ACTION!

Here are some options of how we can turn our inspiration into action:

- Design and prepare cards that include the following:

"We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed."

Martin Luther King Jr.

Make your voice heard! Demand freedom for the hostages! Go to: [oneminaday.com](http://oneminaday.com)

- Give out the cards at your youth group/ synagogue/ Hillel MLK day gatherings, as well as reaching out to other communities marking MLK day and ask them, in the spirit of MLK's memory, to join you in advocating for the release of the hostages.
- Take photos of your activities and post on social media under the hashtags #BringThemHomeNow #ReleaseTheHostagesNow #BringHershHome

## CLOSING INTENTION

- As a result of this conversation, one way I am thinking differently about the value of freedom is...
- Inspired by Martin Luther King Jr., one way I am thinking differently about my obligation toward freeing the hostages is...
- The call to action I am going to take upon myself toward freeing the hostages is...



Martin Luther King Jr.