

Each Child Belongs to All of Us: Parents to Parents

Facilitator Guide

What would you do for the safe return of your kids?

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

Who are you responsible for in your daily life? What are the responsibilities parents have towards their kids? Do we have a broader responsibility? How can mothers and fathers act as leaders in their communities?

FRAMING THE ISSUE

What would you do for the safe return of your kids? One of the basic tenets of parenthood is the responsibility of the parent to care for their child and protect them.

Maya Angelou wrote: "Each child belongs to all of us and they will bring us a tomorrow in direct relation to the responsibility we have shown to them."

Parents are fierce protectors of their children and we are all the protectors of the next generation. Use your voice and your power as a parent to reach across cultures and religions to help release the hostages in Gaza so they can continue to grow in freedom.

Info For Facilitator



Target Audience:

Parents of all ages, nationalities, faiths in a group setting (could be at a dinner gathering, a book club, parenting group, etc.)



Length Of Program:

30-45 minutes for group discussion, exploration and recruitment to action



Materials & Prep:

- Bring Them Home stickers, solidarity tags, bracelets, ribbons, posters or big plain red heart stickers ("our heart is captive in Gaza" see below)
- Local and federal government representatives contact information (phone, email, DM social media)

LET'S EXPLORE

Discussion

- Have you ever not known where your child was/lost sight of them in a public place?
Write the first three words that come to mind.
- Turn to the person on your left and share your three words. Share what you did to locate your kids and make sure they were safe. How did it feel when you found them?

- Read the poem On Children or [listen to the song version](#).

On Children / Kahlil Gibran

And a woman who held a babe against her bosom said, Speak to us of Children.

And he said:

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

For they have their own thoughts.

You may house their bodies but not their souls,

For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.

You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.

For life goes not backward nor carries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.

The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.

Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;

For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

Kahlil Gibran (1883-1931, born in Lebanon); from The Prophet (Knopf, 1923)

We care for our children, we protect our children, we are their stable bows. At the same time, we want them to be able to fly and become their own selves. When our children are being held hostage, they cannot pursue their dreams or fly like an arrow.

Learn

- Explore and [listen to the voices and stories](#) of the mothers of the hostages being held in Gaza.
- Brainstorm together: What are all the parent/child hubs you could impact? (All the places you take your kids. For example: Mommy and Me classes, school, religious services, after school activities and classes, library, toy store, movies, plays, concerts, museums, supermarket, ice cream shops, amusement parks, playground, pediatrician's office, etc.)

TAKE ACTION!

Once you've come up with your list, activate your group to do any or all of the following:

- Put up stickers, stories, posters, arrange meetings/demonstrations in these places, give out heart stickers with hostage names.
- Petition groups from your list to add the hostage time counter to their websites.
- Share the voices and videos of the parents of the hostages to your social media and with the circles you've listed above.
- Add your voice to the #MomToo challenge campaign
- Adopt hostage families. Write a letter to your local and federal government representative **today** describing the plight of your family and telling the story of one hostage. Take a red sticker and write the name of your hostage on it. Take a picture of yourself wearing the sticker and share widely.

CLOSING INTENTION

"No language can express the power and beauty and heroism of a mother's love."

Edwin Hubbell Chapin

As parents, we are uniquely positioned to bring this issue to a wider audience - all humans can relate to being or having a child. It's about people. Not politics.

▶ A Visual Plea for Liberation, marking the first birthday of Kfir Bibas, the youngest Israeli kidnapped by Hamas, along with his mother, brother and separately, his father.

Art event in Berlin. For more info: #BringBibasBack, @israel-is.you, @combatantisemitism

