

# MEET THE HOSTAGES' PARENTS

## Facilitator Guide

**Hersh Goldberg-Polin and Alon Ohel were among those taken hostage from the Nova music festival on October 7. How can the voices of their parents inspire us to political and spiritual action for their release?**

### Info For Facilitator



#### Target Audience:

High School, Young Adults, Adults



#### Length Of Program

45- 90 minutes for the activity, including listening to several short audio clips and discussion.



#### Materials & Prep:

- Participant access to listen to the audio file clips provided [here](#).
- Discussion questions (either orally facilitated by the facilitator or printed, for the participants).



#### Note to Facilitators:

This session uses moving and powerful clips from two episodes of Israel Story's Wartime Diaries podcast series, and the facilitation guide offers a combination of clips from both episodes and discussion questions to frame the conversation—beginning with personal reflection and building towards a commitment to take action—as well as the lyrics to the song heard in the final clip. We recommend working through the five sections in sequence, but Section B or Section D might be omitted to accommodate shorter learning timeframes.

Facilitators are invited to listen [to the two episodes in their entirety](#) before facilitating the session with learners. Facilitators should also note that the two episodes were recorded at different times, and therefore represent snapshots of both families at a certain point in time. As of May 1, both Hersh and Alon remain in captivity and their families continue to be active on behalf of their sons and all of the remaining hostages. A Hamas propaganda video featuring Hersh was released during the recent Passover holiday, confirming that he is alive and in urgent need of medical care.

### FRAMING THE ISSUE

Everything in Israel changed on Saturday, October 7, 2023. During these incredibly difficult days, the team at the podcast Israel Story team is sharing the voices of those among and around them, in the form of quick conversations—or postcards, really—that try to capture slivers of life right now.

Using moving and powerful [clips from two episodes of Israel Story's Wartime Diaries podcast series](#), we will meet the parents of two hostages—Hersh Goldberg-Polin and Alon Ohel, both of whom were abducted from the Nova music festival on October 7—and hear about the different ways in which they take action toward the release of their sons.





## SECTION E: ONE SMALL THING

Clip 9: "It's not enough just to listen, you have to do something" (Idit Ohel)

שובי אלי  
אבישי כהן

**Come back to me**  
Avishai Cohen

אם תלכי הלילה לבדך  
הכוכבים ילוו אותך  
רוח ים תלחש אל תוך ליבך  
תמלא את גופך  
ואם תבקשי את חום גופי  
אני אצא אל הלילה  
אחפש כוכב שיאיר דרכי  
(ואותי אלייך יביא)

If you go alone tonight  
The stars will accompany you  
A sea breeze will whisper into your heart  
Fill your body  
And if you ask for my body heat  
I will go out into the night  
I will look for a star to light my way  
(And it will bring me to you)

שובי אלי, שובי אלינו  
בשבילך, בשביל שנינו  
שובי אלי, שובי אלינו  
בשבילך, בשביל שנינו

Come back to me, come back to us  
For you, for both of us  
Come back to me, come back to us  
For you, for both of us

Discussion questions:

- How did it feel to hear the song "Come back to me" and read its lyrics?
- What is one small action—political, spiritual, or otherwise—that you will commit to taking for the sake of the hostages?
- Who are two people that you want to share this call to action with?



# TAKE ACTION!

In the spirit of Idit Ohel's call to action, we invite you to seek out the stories of more of the hostages—through podcasts, video clips, op eds, and anywhere else you get your stories. For each hostage, challenge yourself to make one small commitment to do good in the world in their honor.

Rachel Goldberg and Jon Polin have also issued calls to action since the recording of their episode, including requesting that you lobby your political representatives to prioritize the swift return of the hostages. Visit [oneminaday.com](http://oneminaday.com) to find phone numbers for your representatives.

And, of course, you can listen to both full Israel Story episodes—and many, many more—at [https://www.israelstory.org/recommended\\_list/wartime-diaries/](https://www.israelstory.org/recommended_list/wartime-diaries/), or wherever you get your podcasts.

## CLOSING INTENTION

Since October 7th, many Jews in the diaspora have responded to the urgent need to participate in political activities that could help lead to the release of the hostages. These efforts are ongoing and need your support. But beyond the political, there are also important spiritual actions we can and must take for the sake of the souls of those held captive in Gaza.

“It’s not enough just to listen, you have to do something. So do something. Do something nice.”

