**Israel Education just can’t be the same after October 7**

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On our recent educator mission to Israel there was not a person with whom we met that did not suggest that Israel was in a completely different place after October 7. Whether their terms of reference were “not since ‘73” or “not since ‘48,” is beside the point, in either case reflecting the depth and magnitude of the rupture brought about by events of the Black Shabbat and its aftermath on Israeli society.

The key question facing me, and my colleagues after our incredibly important mission of international Jewish educators, is **how much does Israel education, or indeed Jewish education, need to change as a result of October 7?**

For educators conditioned to teaching Israel through historic moments, the change will be a relatively simple one, adding 2023 to the long list of once a decade wars that Israel has fought in 1948, 1956, 1967, 1973, 1982, 1991, and 2006.

On a more principled level, many Jewish educators will contend that the events of October 7 are just another piece of the tumultuous journey of the Jewish people. I could imagine, and rightly so, that many educators will subsequently invest even further time and resources educating Jews about such topics of importance including the origins of antisemitism, the history of Zionism, and contemporary Israeli politics and society.

While both approaches are both understandable and even admirable, neither address my understanding of October 7, and its already visible impact on Israel and Jewish education. To be clear, it might be that many of these trends pre-dated October 7, but the events of this day, pulled back the curtain, making it plain for all to see the deficiencies of Israel education – or perhaps more accurately, an Israel education designed and implemented for a 20th century Jew and not the realities of the 21st century.

On one day several of my own foundational principles of Israel and Israel education were challenged, if not shattered. Here are just a few:

* Israel is a safe haven for the Jewish people.
* Never Again means Never Again.
* The world understands that all terrorism is evil– even when it is perpetrated against Jews.

Once these and other foundations are shattered, or at least come into serious question, for me, it is an imperative that Israel education, as a subset of Jewish education, must also evolve in significant ways.

For Jewish education to remain relevant in the world today, educators must confront the task of asking ourselves for what world are we educating our children. In that regard, Jewish educators around the globe must consider adopting core principles and values that underlie all of their work related to Israel and Jewish education:

1. As much as it is important, as Jews, to stand up for the rights of all humanity, this should never be at the expense of the Jewish people advocating for ourselves.
2. The Jewish people is an extended family, and we will never be at peace until we are all free in our homes. #bringthemhomenow
3. We will not rid the world of antisemitism, but we must never sit idly by when this evil is expressed or experienced.
4. As much as it is important to feel pride and express joy in being Jewish, it must also be our duty to know more about being Jewish and our connections to Israel.
5. Irrespective of politics and ideologies, we must continue, as educators, to grapple with the inconvertible fact that there is another people with claims to much of the same land as the Jewish people.

How much Israel education needs to change for you and your educational setting will depend on how you respond to these principles. In a post October 7 world, Jewish educators avoiding or refusing to even be challenged by these principles, would be another strategic failure for the Jewish people.