**Jewish Education in the Aftermath of October 7th**

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The Massacre of October 7th and ensuing Swords of Iron war against Hamas has proven to be a watershed event for the Jewish people in Israel and around the world. The question for Jewish educators is in what ways have these events changed what and how we teach -especially in relationship to Israel. Below I outline, in extremely broad strokes, what I see as a sea change requiring responses by educators and communal leaders. These conclusions are arrived at by conversations with educators from the United States, the UK, Canada, Australia, and South Africa, as well as dialogue with colleagues, reading of research, and personal reflection.

1. **Israel Education** - Overall, Jewish day schools succeed in creating a Zionistic spirit in their schools and among their students. As one important indicator, day schools often have significant percentages of their graduates who make Aliya. However, many students are insufficiently knowledgeable about Modern Israel.  The luxury of ignorance is no longer tolerable. Students are being challenged over their commitments and must have greater understanding of Modern Israel history and current Israel events to support their positions on Zionism and Israel. This is especially important in preparation for the time they leave the four ells of their day school environment.
2. **Peoplehood** – This is a moment in history to capitalize on common destiny amongst Jews across the globe. The war in Israel and the anti-Israelism and antisemitism in the Diaspora brings into sharp focus our common cause as one people.  Aside from victimization, this is an opportunity to draw upon what binds the Jewish people together in heritage, religion, character, and destiny.
3. **Resilience** - The resilience of the Jewish people expressed through endless volunteerism, activism, and contributions in face of this crisis was and is nothing short of extraordinary. In capitalizing on this unique Jewish quality, this response must be noted, celebrated, and encouraged for the long term.
4. **Heroism** – The acts of heroism among common people as well as soldiers on the frontlines proves inspirational. This too needs to be noted, celebrated, and emulated.
5. **The Vulnerability of the State of Israel** – The events of October 7th have broken the myth that Israel is invincible. Dealing with an Israel that is vulnerable against its enemies is a subject educators must be prepared to address.
6. **In-Reach** – There is a significant minority of Jews who identify with the Palestinian cause or at least sympathize with it. Educators and community leaders need to grapple with how best we address and relate to Jews that take up positions that appear as anti-Israel.

The above six areas are critical areas requiring deep attention from Jewish educators and policy makers. Some, like peoplehood, resilience, and heroism represent the silver lining that has arisen in response to and in the aftermath of this crises. Others, such as Israel education, the vulnerability of the State of Israel, and in-reach represent challenges that we ignore at our own peril. Addressing all of them in a serious fashion is critical for sustaining a healthy Jewish ecosystem.