



StandWithUs

UNITED KINGDOM

FEBRUARY 2024

TEACH WITH US

**STANDWITHUS MONTHLY
MAGAZINE FOR EDUCATORS**



WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED

Yehuda Fink – Director of Schools & Youth Programming and Editor of TeachWithUs

Nearly 5000 school pupils reached in person, countless events with nearly 20 different schools and youth organisations – and we are only now entering our busy period!

In January alone, we reached over 1800 school pupils in person through our programming. Our educators have noticed a profound change in the way pupils engage with content regarding Israel and Zionism. There is clearly a stronger sense of pride in identity, and this has impacted the types of questions that are being asked of us and you! TeachWithUs is here to provide options for questions and ideas for resources, as well as letting you know what we can bring to you!



Furthermore, we are delighted to have opened sign-ups for the event of the year: Swipe Up Rise Up!

Swipe Up Rise Up (SURU) is our one-of-a-kind, social media conference for Sixth Formers, dedicated to combating antisemitism and misinformation about Israel online. The event is for pupils in Year 12 and highlights include an expo and a panel including Rachel Riley, Emily Schrader and Konstantin Kisin! Further information on the back page! Contact me at yehuda@standwithus.com to get your school involved!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome and Table of Contents	1
Current Events in Israel	2
“Navigating Challenges” – Ben Gordon	3
January Highlights	4
StartUp Profile	5
Tough Question of the Month and Teaching Resources	6

Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number 07706587313
E-mail yehuda@standwithus.com
Website www.standwithus.com/uk

CURRENT EVENTS IN ISRAEL

The Israel-Hamas war has raged on, coming close to entering its fourth month, whilst escalations continue to threaten to erupt in northern Israel.

Here is what we know as of February 1st, 2024:

- Since the beginning of the war, 12,000 trucks, with 1052 tonnes of medical equipment have entered Gaza. The IDF has continued to facilitate humanitarian and medical aid to Gazan civilians.
- Troops have operated in an underground tunnel in Khan Younis where Israeli hostages were being kept.
- The IDF, with the support of the IAF and the Israeli Navy, are continuing to strike terrorist infrastructure in Gaza, focusing more on the southern part of the strip.
- During, IDF activity in Beit Lahia, the troops located approximately 100 rocket set-installations and 60 ready to use rockets.
- The IDF have encircled Khan Younis, believing the hostages and the Hamas leadership are there.
- Underground weapons manufacturing site was found and destroyed by the IDF in central Gaza.
- Hamas refused an offer from Israel. stating they will refuse any deal which does not lead to the end of the war.
- South Africa took Israel to the International Court of Justice, accusing the Jewish State of genocide. The ICJ verdict has not dismissed the case, but has not ruled that a genocide is taking place. ICJ has demanded that hostages are released by Hamas and that Israel ensures humanitarian aid is provided.
- Following evidence of UNRWA employees involved in the October 7th massacre and a pile of evidence of corruption, countries including the US, UK and Germany have pulled their funding for the organisation.
- The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says over 25,000 Palestinians have been killed and 62,681 have been wounded since the start of the war.
- Since the beginning of the war on October 7th, 221 IDF soldiers have fallen in Gaza.

On the northern border of Israel, clashes with Hezbollah continue:

- The IDF completed combined aerial and artillery strikes on a number of Hezbollah targets in Wadi Saluki, in Lebanon.
- IAF fighter jets conducted strikes in the areas of Ayta ash Shab and Majdal Zun in Lebanon.
- Tension on the Israeli Lebanese border is increasing. Israel is preparing for a potential second front in the north. The IDF and the Israeli government are determined to bring back security to the north of Israel, so that the residents can safely return home..



NAVIGATING CHALLENGES

Ben Gordon – Head of Jewish Studies at Yavneh College

Israel has and always will be more than just a topic that pupils learn about in the classrooms of schools. As a Jewish educator, it is important to guide pupils to see how Israel is a part of their identity and something to be proud of. The attacks of October 7th made this even more crucial.

In the days following the attacks, it was only natural that the atmosphere in the lessons was challenging. Whether pupils had family or friends living in Israel, it was at the forefront of people's thoughts. To add to this, we also had teachers being called up, serving on the front lines which created an even more personal and emotional connection.

To provide the necessary support, teachers ensured that pupils have felt comfortable asking questions by setting aside time within lessons, as well as creating an open-door policy at break times for this. In addition, daily Tehillim and Tefillot services occur at break times. It is important for us to address the situation in Israel head-on to support pupils in the best way we can.

Since October 7th, the challenge of misinformation has been even more pressing. Students are often exposed to various narratives through social media and news outlets making the roles of educators even more important to prepare and guide students in evaluating sources, discerning bias and forming well-informed opinions. As a school, we invited in a range of influencers on social media to sit on a panel

We had teachers being called up, serving on the front lines which created an even more personal and emotional connection.

about the challenges they faced being supporters of Israel. The resounding message from the panel was clear: make sure the information you are reading is true before reposting, otherwise we end up becoming our own worst enemy. Directing to reliable sources of information and having meaningful conversations really clarified pupils' opinions.

Another challenge we continue to face is time and constant changes to the war. One way to keep all pupils on the same page was to invite StandWithUs into school to give a special Israel briefing. In addition, we have had a number of events and exhibitions to keep the memories of those lost, as well as those still alive captivity. These have proven successful in supporting our pupils in school.

In facing these challenges, we have instilled a sense of responsibility, critical thinking, and resilience in our pupils. Israel is not just a topic; it is a dynamic, evolving reality that shapes our collective identity, and as educators, it is our duty to guide our pupils in navigating these challenges with knowledge, empathy, and pride.



Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number
E-mail
Website

07706587313
yehuda@standwithus.com
www.standwithus.com/uk

LAST MONTH HIGHLIGHTS! – JANUARY 2024

We continue to work hard to reach and deliver content to as many people in-person, and online, with sessions or literature! Check out some of our highlights.



24th January, Explore session at JLE

Israel Advocacy at JLE

Back by popular demand!

We are delighted to return for another term of the Israel Advocacy course at the Jewish Learning Exchange. We first delivered this in-depth programme for Young Professionals at JLE last November.

The course explores the history of Israel, the conflict and the ever-changing society.

Sessions are on Wednesday evenings at the JLE centre in NW London. Be in touch with the JLE to see if you can join the course!

Supporting Yavneh College Pupils

Over the course of two school days, we were proud to support Yavneh College in their wider lessons on Zionism and Israel.

Years 9–13 were each delivered a session on the current war and its possible future. We also focussed on challenging questions regarding understanding who the Palestinian people are and their perspective of the Nakba.

Yavneh College pupils were all thoroughly engaged with excellent questions!



16th January, special session at Yavneh College with Year 10

STARTUP PROFILE!

Our phenomenal StartUp students are entering a key phase of StartUp. They have been split into groups to start working on a project that will connect people from the UK and Israel! Let's hear from them!



Jake - JFS

What have you learnt from StartUp so far?

I've learnt that Israeli start-ups, particularly in the innovative sector, have a much higher chance of working out. Everyone has ideas, you just have to learn how to capitalise and build on that. Through StartUp I've learned a lot of these skills, and it's really helped me to develop ideas for my final project with my group.

What skills have you learned so far?

We've learned how to delegate roles, improved a lot more on our teamwork and agreeing on separate ideas. These skills have helped us come together to collaborate on one main idea and each provide our own qualities to its progress.

What have you enjoyed about StartUp?

I've enjoyed StartUp for many reasons, but mainly I've enjoyed working in a team and building on my leaderships skills for the future.

Mia - Yavneh College

What have you learnt from StartUp so far?

I've learned how to collaborate with people in a different way than I normally would, because when we collaborate we tend to just bombard one another with input. But within StartUp, we've recognised that we need to have structure in how we collaborate, we started working in a more organised fashion and its taught us how we can output the best results that we can from what we've put into ideas.

Have you learned anything about Israel and Israeli technology?

It's amazing to see how much has been developed from Israel in such a brief period of time. It's very inspiring to see what Israel's sense of contribution to the world has been despite its young age and tiny size.

What have you enjoyed about StartUp?

I've immensely enjoyed my time at StartUp with StandWithUs! The opportunities available in addition to the kindness of both the organisers and my peers has made the experience unforgettable. I have learnt how to assist and build on concepts of others while still maintaining our main project characteristics. I cannot wait to continue to develop and collaborate with others in order to see our project come to life!



Discover more and apply
for next year's StartUp at
www.standwithus.com/startup-uk

Follow us on:



@StandWithUsUK

Number
E-mail
Website

07706587313
yehuda@standwithus.com
www.standwithus.com/uk

Tough Question of the Month

Each month we will address a tough question about Israel and the conflict. These questions may be ones that your pupils may have asked, or you have thought of yourselves. Our suggested answers are aimed to support you in navigating these topics in the classrooms when pupils have thoughts or concerns about Israel and the conflict.

Send in your tough question to
yehuda@standwithus.com



Is Israel Committing a Genocide?

South Africa has gone to The International Court of Justice accusing Israel of committing a genocide against the people of Gaza. Is this true? The important word in the definition of genocide is intent. Genocide is committed if there is the intent to destroy in whole or in part a particular group. In line with that definition from the UN Convention has Israel committed genocide?

No.

Since the barbaric massacre on October 7th, Israel has made it clear it is at war with Hamas and not the Palestinians. A part of Hamas' evil strategy is the use of human shields. Hamas hides behind civilian infrastructure such as hospitals, schools and mosques to protect themselves. Israel has proven this to the world and has continually gone above and beyond to protect innocent civilians, something that Hamas never does.

The IDF always warns civilians in Gaza to move out of combat zones to minimise civilian loss of life. Israel has sent leaflets and text messages throughout this war to achieve this goal. Israel has provided aid, food and water to the people of Gaza; something it is not expected to do under international law. . The UN Convention was signed after the genocide committed against the Jewish people during the Holocaust. Now, South Africa is using this same Convention to stop the one and only Jewish State from defending itself from another genocide, this time committed by Hamas. Israel has the right both legal and moral to defend itself. Israel is not committing genocide but protecting itself from genocide.



Educational Resources

We are building a base of resources for teachers and educators to support you in the classroom, youth group or camps. Each month we will highlight a new resource that we upload to the database. If you have any requests for resource topics and activities then please email yehuda@standwithus.com

The below resource is to **support you** when discussing the events of October 7th. We have **filmed a presentation** that can be shown to your group. The presentation is titled "Israel Under Attack" and covers the background to the October 7th massacres, background to the October 7th massacres, the events of the day itself, and the response from Israel against Hamas in Gaza.

The presentation covers challenging areas, and raises questions about civilian casualties, what is resistance, and what Israel may be aiming to achieve in this war.

In the folder you will find:

- A guide sheet with links to the video.
- Help cards for discussing questions surrounding antisemitism in the UK, and examples of successful resistance movements in history when comparing to the actions of Hamas.

**SCAN THE QR CODE
FOR THE RESOURCES!**



Year-12
Students only

StandWithUs
UNITED KINGDOM

are proud to present

SWIPE UP RISE UP 2024

against antisemitism on social media



Panel of Experts



Multi-School Event



Exciting Expo



Konstantin Kisin



Rachel Riley MBE



Emily Schrader



28TH MARCH, 2024

SIGN UP NOW

standwithus.com/suru-uk

@StandWithUsUK

