



StandWithUs

UNITED KINGDOM

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TEACH WITH US

**STANDWITHUS MONTHLY
MAGAZINE FOR EDUCATORS**



WELCOME TO TEACHWITHUS

Yehuda Fink – Director of Schools & Youth Programming

Since setting up the Schools & Youth Programming department at StandWithUs UK in May 2022, we have been privileged to collaborate with so many wonderful teachers and educators across schools, youth organisations, synagogues and community centres.

We are always looking to support you in educating the youth about Israel (the good and the less so!) and how to confront antisemitism. With this topic being under greater demand, we have found many of you reaching out to us with questions and requests for resource ideas.



Therefore, we decided to launch TeachWithUs, a monthly magazine for educators and teachers across the UK. Each month will provide you with information about current events in Israel, comment and opinion pieces from various figures (it could be you!), updates about our work and upcoming events, as well as resources for you to use in your classroom or next session.

We are sure that in TeachWithUs there is something for everyone. Thank you for your support!

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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.

With news and reports from within Gaza limited, it is obviously challenging to understand what is clearly happening on the ground.

Here is what we know as of December 20th, 2023:

- Israel continues to cement its control over Northern Gaza. 1,500 tunnel shafts and underground passages have been exposed in Gaza by IDF troops since the beginning of the war. Most of these have been found beneath schools, hospitals, mosques, UN facilities and civilian institutions.
- One of the tunnels uncovered runs very deep and is wide enough for cars to drive through.
- The IDF is targeting Hamas military bases and terrorists in Khan Younis, Southern Gaza. It is believed that the leaders of Hamas such as Yahya Sinwar and Mohammed Deif are hiding there.
- On December 19th, the IDF published video recording of an interrogation of Ahmad Kahalot, the Director of the Kamal Adwan Hospital in Jabalya in northern Gaza, one of the biggest in Gaza. In the interrogation, Kahalot admits to being a Senior Hamas Member since 2010 and that Hamas has used hospitals as military facilities under their control.
- There are rumours that negotiations for the return of hostages have resumed but nothing official has come to light as of yet.
- The Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza says over 18,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 50,000 wounded in the fighting. The IDF says it has killed at least 7,000 terrorists. The real numbers will likely remain unclear for some time, due to misinformation spread by Hamas and other factors.
- Since the beginning of the war on October 7th, 466 IDF soldiers have fallen, with 134 killed since the beginning of ground operations in Gaza.

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

- Significant IDF airstrike activity against Hezbollah sites in Lebanon on the morning of December 20th, continuing increased escalations of war activity by both sides – with the day before seeing multiple suicide drone and rocket attacks against Israel in the evening.
- On 4th January 2024, Hezbollah withdrew its forces approximately 2–3km away from the border with Israel.



My experience as a StandWithUs educator

Eva James - evaj@standwithus.com

I started working with StandWithUs UK at the end of August 2023. Having educated in schools both before and after the October 7th massacre, the change I have seen in the pupils since the start of the war has been clear. Before the war the pupils were inquisitive about Israel and Israeli history, but after October 7th there was huge shock and fear amongst them. Pupils told me they were scared to wear their kippah and Magen David on the street and on public transport. However, as the weeks have passed, that fear has turned into determination.



The pupils want to learn as much about Israel as possible so that they feel equipped to deal with antisemitic comments they receive both in person and on social media. I have given several sessions in many schools about Israel and antisemitism. These sessions look to give pupils a deeper knowledge about Israel's independence and fight for survival. They also look to educate pupils on the history of antisemitism and the multiple wars Israel has had to face since 1948. By equipping pupils with the necessary knowledge, helps them feel more empowered to know how and when to respond to misinformation about Israel and the Jewish people.

Despite these difficult months for Israel and Jews around the world, I have felt moved that these young pupils want to be proud of their Jewish identity and feel that Israel is their home as well. The rise in antisemitism around the world has had a huge impact on Jews in every country. Jewish people have repeatedly said they have felt less safe in London than in Israel. Pupils have told me their families talk about their lives before and after October 7th; saying the massacre has permanently changed their lives. In teaching these wonderful pupils during these difficult months, educating ourselves and educating others, is key to stopping the spread of misinformation about Israel and combatting antisemitism. Having pride in our identity and our homeland despite the persecution we have felt throughout the millennia is still very strong and will continue.

OUR WORK SO FAR THIS YEAR

Since October 7th, we have been working day and night to ensure that pupils and youth across the UK are provided with the appropriate education to process the events of that day and the subsequent war.

Check out some of our highlights.



10th October, briefing about October 7th at Immanuel College

Response to October 7th in schools

In the hours after the atrocities of October 7th, we worked on developing a presentation to be delivered to school pupils.

The presentation, titled "Israel Under Attack", has been delivered to hundreds of pupils across many schools in the UK.

We have visited many schools such as Immanuel College, Yavneh College, Habs, South Hampstead and others.

Be in touch to invite us to run this very well-received session with your pupils, regardless of age. We have modified the presentation to suit various Key Stages.

Working with youth groups

We have also delivered this session to many youth groups across organisations and synagogues. Venues have included Muswell Hill Youth, Kinloss Youth, Chabad Belgravia, Brondesbury Park Youth and many others.

Be in touch to invite us to your youth group or synagogue to deliver this session to teenagers and parents.



15th October, a talk to youth at Chabad Belgravia



November, StartUp groups "Waze" and "Netafim" proudly show off their t-shirts!

StartUp is back!

We were delighted to launch the new cohort of *StartUp* in October! 24 teenagers from Year 10 across a number of schools are taking part in our exciting leadership course until April.

StartUp empowers its participants to develop existing and new skills in leadership and teamwork, all within the framework of Israeli entrepreneurship and innovation.

We will keep you updated on these fantastic students progress over the coming months as they begin to work on team projects!

For more information about *StartUp* visit our website.

Explore+ Launches!

Last year we developed *Explore* – a series of workshops for Sixth Formers about Israeli history and culture. With the success and enthusiasm for this course amongst schools, we decided to develop *Explore+*.

Explore+ is an intensive course of all our workshops for Sixth Formers. It provides them the space to learn about parts of Israeli history that they may not have encountered before, and to engage with challenging questions.

The first cohort of Yavneh College *Explore+* recently completed their course, with another starting in January. We also have groups at JFS and Immanuel College.

For more information about *Explore* visit our website.



16th November, *Explore+* pupils from Yavneh College following completion of the course



21st November, Charlotte Korchak at King David

Charlotte Korchak Tour

We were delighted to bring Charlotte on a tour of schools and youth groups in late November. Over a week, Charlotte spoke to 1000 pupils across schools and youth groups about October 7th, the history of the conflict and answered very challenging questions from incredibly engaged audiences!

Thank you to King Solomon High School, Habs, JFS, Hasmonean Girls, King David Manchester, Immanuel College, Bnei Akiva, and FZY!

Keep an eye out for future speaking tours coming to schools in 2024!

COMING UP!

See what we have planned for schools and youth! Email yehuda@standwithus.com to enquire about taking part!



**SCAN THE QR CODE FOR THE
SWIPE UP RISE UP PROMO!**



**FOR MORE INFO ABOUT SWIPE UP RISE UP VISIT
<https://www.standwithus.com/suru-uk>**

SWIPE UP RISE UP 2024!

The event of the year returns on 28th March 2024 at the StoneX Stadium!

Swipe Up Rise Up is the inter-school conference for Year 12 pupils to be inspired in the fight against antisemitism on social media.

Taking place from lunchtime until the end of the school day, the pupils will engage with an exciting expo, tools and skills that will enable them to feel more confident about countering this online hatred, and hearing from outstanding speakers including Emily Schrader and Rachel Riley MBE!

We can't wait to welcome your pupils to this outstanding event! We will be in touch with details to arrange places for your pupils!

NOAH SHUFUTINSKY UK TOUR FEBRUARY 2024

We are delighted to be hosting Noah on his UK speaking tour during the first week of February.

Noah Shufutinsky is a Jewish educator, lecturer, and musician. As a graduate of The George Washington University where he earned his BA in Judaic Studies, he was heavily involved in Jewish life and Zionist activism. As the Education and Outreach Manager at StandWithUs Jerusalem, he covers topics regarding Israeli and Jewish history, connection to the homeland, and the intricacies of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and how it affects Jewish people around the world.

Speaking times are limited so bookings for schools and youth groups will be considered on a first come, first serve basis!

There is no charge for Noah's visit to your school.



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

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

This month's 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, 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!

