



Guiding Questions for Programs with Arab Citizens after October 7th

This guide aims to help moderators and facilitators lead constructive programs featuring Arab citizens in a post-October 7 landscape. These questions are designed to help speakers share their perspectives and lived experiences in ways that address learners' interests and curiosities. The questions also model best practices that are particularly important with respect to Arab/Palestinian speakers at this time: They do not require someone to be "representative" of Arab society and are unlikely to make a speaker feel defensive or judged. We hope you will find this resource useful as you plan upcoming programs.

Note: Arab citizens are especially sensitive about visibility in social media during this time. Check in with speakers before you or your participants post any quotes or pictures.

About the speaker(s) and Arab citizens' perspectives on October 7th and its immediate aftermath:

- I know it may be emotional or challenging, but can you take us back to your experiences on October 7? How did you first feel when you heard the news?
- What did that initial week look and feel like for you? What about your family and community?
- What do you wish American Jews [or whatever your audience is] better understood about the feelings and experiences of Arab citizens of Israel in the aftermath of October 7?
- If relevant: You work/volunteer in the field of shared society/ education/ economic development for Arab citizens etc. How was your work impacted in the first weeks after October 7. What did you do to respond?

About the ongoing impact of October 7 and the war on Arab citizens and Jewish-Arab relations:

- Now, let's shift to the present day: We are now [X] months into the war. How has it impacted your daily realities? What about your work?

➤ In recent months, many surveys have measured public opinion. There are some trends that might feel contradictory. For example:

- Arab citizens were overwhelmingly against Hamas' atrocities. Most Arab citizens are also against the direction of Israeli military actions in the war.
- Immediately following October 7, Arab citizens expressed feeling more Israeli. Yet research has also displayed heightened distrust and fear between Jewish and Arab citizens.

How do you make sense of these trends?

➤ Jewish and Arab citizens continue to wake up in the same country and go to the same workplaces and universities. From your perspective, what are the biggest challenges facing Jewish-Arab relations within Israel right now? Where do you see opportunities or reasons for hope?

➤ Even before the war, Arab citizens navigated a complex and multifaceted identity. How do you understand your own identity today? Does this represent a shift?

➤ When relevant, it is great to ask questions about their work or activism, and how they've adapted to meet the current moment.