



Arab Citizens in Israel After October 7: Insights and Resources

February 29, 2024



on Israeli Arab Issues

Best Practices for Educational Programs in Arab Society

1

Setting Up for Success

Prep, framing, and managing expectations

3

Operating in Arab Society

Awareness of cultural and operational differences

2

Partnering with Arab Speakers and Orgs

Relationships are core to educational work

4

Walking the Walk

Tourism as an economic development pathway for Arab society

Best Practices Post– October 7

- What has changed?
- What has become more important for working with Arab society in Israel?

Category 1:

Setting Up for Success

Preparing Learners for Programs

- ▶ **Wraparound programs:** Pre-learning and post-program processing is even more important in times of heightened sensitivity.
- ▶ It is challenging to learn about impact of Oct 7 on Arab society without **knowing the basics about Arab citizens.**

We have resources to support you.

Framing Language & Concepts

Arab citizens are in a challenging and complex position.

- ▶ **Shared Experiences:** They were among those killed and taken hostage. They were also among the rescuers and volunteers.
- ▶ **Part of Israeli society, but under scrutiny:** They were under fire with all Israelis. Yet many have loved ones in Gaza and feel part of the broader Palestinian people.

Framing Language & Concepts

- ▶ **Daily life & shared spaces:** Arab and Jewish citizens still wake up in the same country and go about their lives. Daily realities can showcase the challenges and opportunities of Jewish-Arab relations.
- ▶ **Competing trends:** Arab citizens feel more connected to Israel and are against Hamas atrocities. Yet many struggle with the war and there is heightened distrust and fear between Arabs and Jews.

Moderating & Asking Questions

- ▶ Active and tight moderation keeps conversations constructive and puts speakers at ease.
- ▶ Well-intentioned questions may be interpreted differently by Arab/Palestinian speakers based on their experiences.
- ▶ Discuss questions ahead of time with speakers, and incorporate their feedback and ideas.

Case Study: “Do you condemn Hamas?”

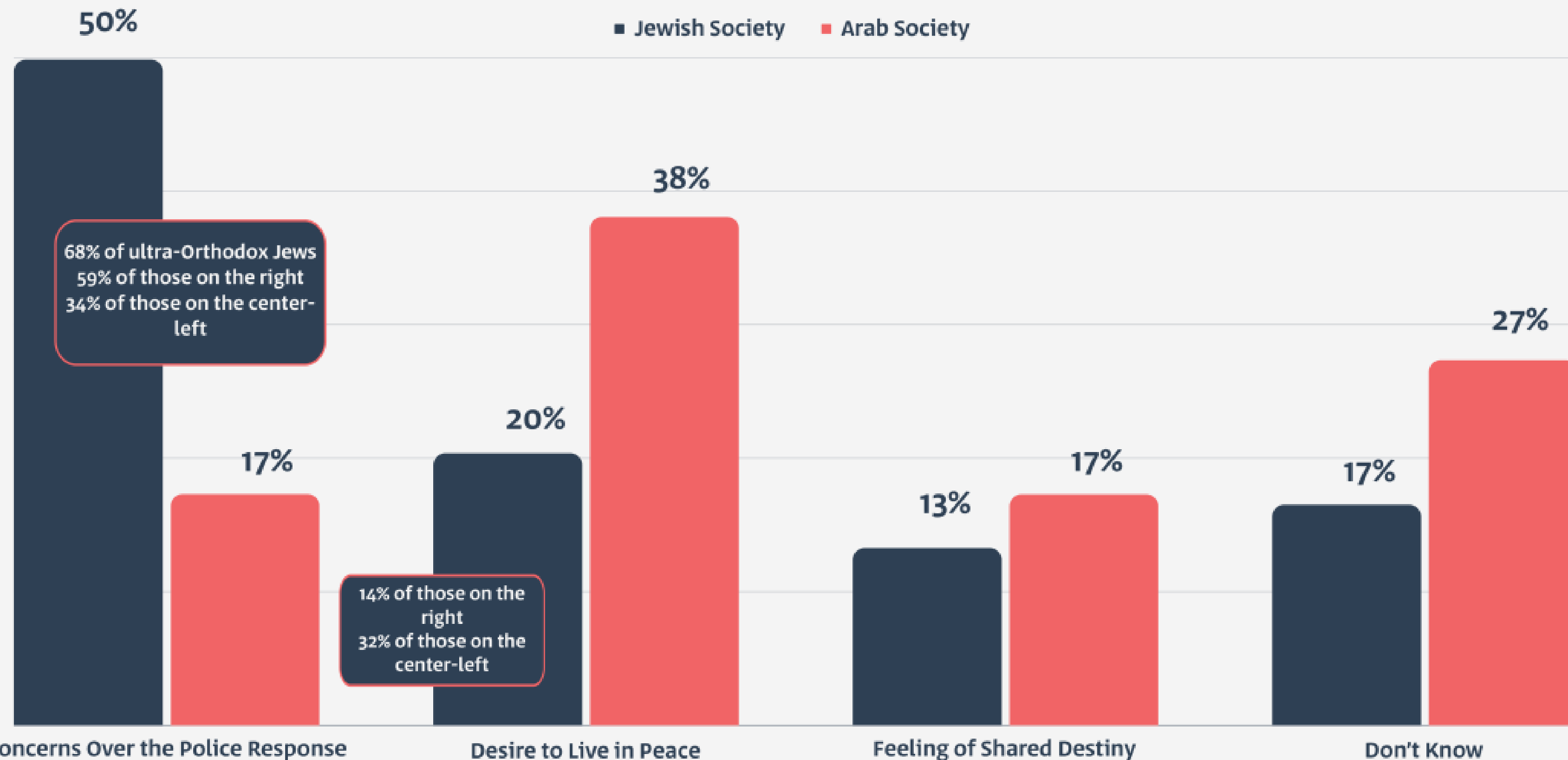
WHAT YOU MIGHT FEEL:

- “I want to have hope but it is really hard. I am desperate to know that I have partners for peace.”
- “I am truly afraid that people want to hurt me and all Jews. I need reassurance it isn’t true.”

WHAT THEY MIGHT FEEL:

- “Why do I need to answer this? I’m not violent. They don’t trust or respect me.”
- “This is humiliating. I feel judged, attacked and like my humanity is questioned.”
- “I am sick of answering this question. It’s painful.”

So far, there have not been clashes between Arab citizens of Israel and Jews on Israeli soil during the course of the war. In your opinion, which of the following best explains the reason why?



Category 2:

Working with Arab Speakers & Organizations

View Speakers & Host Organizations as Partners

- ▶ Ask for their ideas for the program, brainstorm questions together.
- ▶ Check in on people: See how they are doing, particularly right before a program.

Most Important: “Do No Harm”

- ▶ **Prioritize wellbeing of your speakers, learners, and partners.**
- ▶ **Arab citizens are concerned about visibility and social media.** Be extra sensitive when quoting speakers, posting photos, and mindful of participants’ social media posts.
- ▶ **Check speakers’ media boundaries before the program.** People may be more honest and open if they know there will not be any risk of public visibility.

Be Attentive to Life Experiences

- ▶ **Arab citizens are geographically diverse.** Ex: different Oct 7 experiences in the Negev or a mixed city.
- ▶ **Generally are even less familiar** with American Jewish experiences than Jewish Israelis.
- ▶ **Had painful experiences Oct 7 and during the ongoing war.** People may have loved ones, on the 7th, in Gaza, in the army, or a combination. Some feel blamed by colleagues and peers and fear the same from American Jews.

Calendar Reminders

- Ramadan, Eid al Fitr, Passover, Yom Haatzmaut, and Nakba Day are all around the corner.

IATF Resources

Tailored support based on your organization's needs and context

Trainings for organizations and their staff on integrating ACI and Jewish-Arab relations into their work.

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Support framing events and connecting to relevant **speakers, organizations, site visits, and issue experts.** We also can moderate/ accompany in some instances.

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Organize webinars, events, and brown bags to support your professional development and access to trusted voices

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Partnership development: Consulting and building bridges between American Jewish organizations and partners in the field in Israel.

Bringing new voices from Arab society to your learners:

- A cohort of 8 diverse next-generation **changemakers** in Arab society prepared to be speakers and partners for American Jewish educational organizations.
- Fellows can present on a range of topics pertaining to ACI and Jewish-Arab relations in-person or on Zoom.
- **Meet the Fellows May 28-June 8 in NY, DC, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland.**
- Connect and plan programs with the Fellows **starting March 2024.**



IATF Film Discussion Guides

Films and T.V shows can be great windows into Arab society, Palestinian culture, and key topics in Jewish Arab relations. They are particularly helpful when it is not possible to meet with a speaker or arrange a visit.

IATF guides provide context, relevant discussion questions, and a facilitator guide.

We currently have guides for the films ***Oriented, In Between, and Cinema Sabaya!***



Staying Informed

IATF has a range of
resources on our issues
for a wide range of
issues and involvement

Weekly media update: A Thursday round-up of
topical and diverse news and opinion articles.

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Newsletters: A compilation of short updates,
recordings, resources, and IATF activities

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Briefing papers: Thorough reports, summaries,
and research pertaining to major issues and
developments

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[Sign up for our mailing list](#) to get all of our resources

Thank You & Stay in Touch!

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