**Class/Group Session | 100 Days Since the War and Kidnapping**

**For Middle and High school**

**Objectives:**

1. Recognize and identify with the issue of the hostages and the effort to bring them back.
2. Understand the importance of returning the hostages for Israeli citizens as an expression of the covenant between the state and its citizens.
3. Propose actions that can be taken to raise awareness about returning the hostages.

**For the teacher/instructor:**

**It has been 100 days since the war began and over 200 Israelis were kidnapped to Gaza. Today there are still 136 hostages, alive and dead, held by Hamas. From the testimonies of those who have returned from captivity, it is clear that time is running out for the hostages and every day in captivity endangers their lives.**

**The purpose of the lesson is to strengthen the understanding that the State of Israel and Israeli society are committed to returning the hostages because this is what countries owe their citizens: protection and security. In the lesson we will try to understand the issue of hostages as a general issue that is not limited only to the families and relatives of the hostages themselves, and also give students options for taking action on the issue.**

**Good luck!**

**Lesson plan:**

1. **Opening:**On 10/7 over 240 people were kidnapped to Gaza - men and women, elderly and children. Today, 100 days later, there are still 136 hostages in Gaza. We will dedicate time today to a discussion and reflection on the issue of the hostages and its importance to us as citizens.
2. **Write** on the board or **project** a slide with the phrase: **We don't abandon wounded soldiers in the field**.
3. **Ask the class:**
* Are you familiar with this phrase? Where is it from?
* Why do you think this phrase is important? What does it provide soldiers during battle?
* What values stand behind it? (Friendship, responsibility, partnership)
* In what other areas of life is there a similar spirit? What other places that you know of operate according to this code - that everyone matters and no one is left alone?
1. **Say:**The phrase "we don't abandon wounded soldiers in the field" is an Israeli expression that has accompanied Israeli society and the IDF since the founding of the state. The phrase demonstrates the friendship and partnership that exists among fighting units and the commitment between soldiers that just as they all went out to battle together, they all return together. This phrase may seem obvious to us but there are also armies that operate differently, where the wounded hamper the fighting and are not cared for. When the IDF fights it extracts the wounded and even bodies of soldiers under fire even at the expense of success in battle, because every soldier and human life is sacred.
2. **Watch a video together:** Yael Adar, mother of Tamir Adar who was kidnapped on 10/7 from Nir Oz. In the video, Yael is speaking outside a cabinet meeting: the ministerial committee responsible for managing the war. When she spoke on 25/12 she did not know that her son Tamir was no longer among the living.
3. **Ask:**
* What feelings do you have watching the video?
* What reasons does Yael give to return the hostages?
(Note she has personal reasons: her feelings as a mother, her personal pain, and also general reasons).
* Why does she say the question is "is there a state here"? Why does she say the state will not continue to exist if the hostages don't return?
* What is the importance of returning the hostages for Israeli citizens who are not family members and do not know the hostages personally?
(Belief in a government that does not abandon its residents, preserving the sanctity of human life in the country).
* How is this connected to the phrase we discussed earlier?
1. **Say:**
Today is the 100th day since the kidnapping. The families' feelings are very complicated, mainly because sometimes it seems that life in Israel is returning to normal. It’s natural and understandable that people and companies will not only be in a state of shock, pain and trauma - but it’s very important that on a day like this we stop together with the rest of the country and remember that we must bring the hostages home, so that we all know that the State of Israel does not leave people behind and protects its citizens.
2. **Towards the end of the lesson,** write together on the board a list of things that can be done to raise awareness about the hostages. Some examples:
* Making signs and hanging them around town
* Hanging signs distributed by the Hostages and Missing Families Forum Headquarters
* Fundraising to the Hostages and Missing Families Forum Headquarters activities
* Sharing posts on social media
* Going together to the Hostages Plaza near Tel Aviv Museum

**Hoping for quieter days ahead**