

TALKING ISRAEL

A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE FOR TEENS



IN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ISRAEL, WHAT CAN I DO?

- Start with empathy
- Listen to listen, not to respond
- Address specific issues
- Reject absolutism.
- Pick the right place to have a conversation -yelling in public is not that place
- Use positive language - investing in peace, building a better future, coexistence

- It is ok to disagree with policies and leaders of the Israeli government, just as it is ok to disagree with policies of the American government
- You are not responsible for defending all the decisions and actions Israel takes.
- Believe that people care about the issues even if they know less about it than you do
- Use specific, personal stories and ideas that convey emotion

HOW DO I TALK TO FRIENDS WHO ARE RESISTANT TO ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW?

- Decide whether the conversation is even worth having; consider if you want to learn why your friend feels the way he/she does; do you want to change his/her mind?
- Start off the conversation with understanding and acknowledge that you are coming from different places, and then explain why you disagree.
- Talk about the larger picture including shared values and goals while reframing, introducing your perspective, and telling your story.

- The minute you put someone on the defensive, they will stop listening to your perspective. For example, you can agree with someone that civilian casualties are painful for everyone but disagree on the best way to deescalate the situation.
- Remember that not everyone will be willing to have a conversation. It is completely ok to walk away from those situations.
- Your physical and emotional safety are always the most important things!

HOW DO I COUNTERACT BIASED POSTS ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

- Think before you post on social media and then think again.
- Understand the value of social and its limitations. Social media is great for amplifying the specific experiences of others and sharing ways to take action. It is not a good place for nuanced conversation on complex topics.
- The best way to counteract false information is to post your own content.
- Seek out reliable information from credible sources.
- If you see something that contains false information, you can report it. Click [here](#) for policies and information on reporting incidents on various social media sites.
- Engage with organizations that have gained experience working directly with people affected by the conflict and those who have studied about the issues at hand.
- Lead with empathy and understanding; humanize the people impacted by the conflict on multiple sides.
- Don't use inflammatory language.
- Don't compare what's happening to unrelated events happening in other parts of the world.
- Don't support organizations or movements that incite against either side.

RESOURCES

The following articles, social media accounts, and organizations offer a range of perspectives on Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank. This is not an exhaustive list. The JCRC does not endorse the positions of any of the individuals and organizations listed and offers this for information purposes only.

ARTICLES

- [Eight Tips for Reading About Israel](#) by Matti Friedman, Sapir: A Journal of Jewish Conversations
- [Navigating Complexity](#) by Rachel Fish
- [When Progressives Meet Israel](#) by Ethan Felson, Sapir: A Journal of Jewish Conversations
- [Are Instagram infographics driving the narrative around the Israeli-Palestinian crisis?](#) By Mira Fox, Forward
- [How to Halt the Criminalization of Israel](#) by Yossi Klein Halevi, Los Angeles Times
- [How an American left lens can get Israel wrong](#) by Jeremy Burton, Times of Israel

INDIVIDUALS TO FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[Roots Metals](#)
[Rudy Rochman](#)
[Chaya Lev](#)
[A Wider Frame](#)
[This Modern Jew](#)
[Bassem Eid](#)
[Ilana Wols](#)
[Noa Tishby](#)

[Zach Shaffer](#)
[Hen Maziq](#)
[Progressive Jews](#)
[Jewish LGBT](#)
[Chama Mechtaly](#)
[Yair Rosenberg](#)
[Quentin Azeri](#)
[Ashager Araro](#)

[Julia Jassey](#)
[Amy Albertson](#)
[The Moroccan Jew](#)
[Jewish Resistance](#)
[Hilary Hawn](#)
[Eve Barlow](#)
[Blake Flayton](#)
[Challaback Girls](#)

ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- JCRC of The Birmingham Jewish Federation: [Facebook](#)
- The Birmingham Jewish Federation: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#)
- A Wider Bridge: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- A Wider Frame: [Instagram](#)
- AIPAC: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- ADL: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- AJC: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- ALLMEP (Alliance for Middle East Peace): [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Americans for Peace Now (APN): [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Embassy of Israel: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Fuente Latina: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Hey Alma: [Instagram](#)
- Israel on Campus Coalition: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Israel Policy Forum/IPF Atid: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- J Street: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Kids4Peace: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#) • StandWithUs: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Stop Antisemitism: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)
- Zioness Movement: [Facebook](#); [Instagram](#); [Twitter](#)



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JEWISH FEDERATION



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Jewish Community Relations Council
of The Birmingham Jewish Federation