



Pop-Up Giving Circle: War in Israel

Now is a powerful time to engage our community. We know that some are feeling more connected than ever, while others are feeling isolated and hopeless. Wherever you fall on that spectrum, action is a powerful antidote to hopelessness and fear. At Amplifier, we know that values are a powerful tool to guide us towards action, including giving, from a place of connection and intention.

Now more than ever, we encourage you to lean into community, whether that's to combat isolation and fear, or to build on the unity you are feeling.

“In an emergency, the responsibility to sustain the poor rests on the individual. Over time the responsibility shifts to rest on the community.” -- Commentary by Moses Isserles on Ketubot 67B

A quick and easy way to do so is through a pop-up giving circle. Use Amplifier's [Pop-Up Giving Circle Facilitation Guide](#) and [Workbook](#) along with the suggestions below to host a giving circle focused on the Emergency in Israel.

A pop-up giving circle is easy enough for lay leaders or professionals to run as an engagement event or in a living room with friends. It works particularly well for lapsed donors, young leaders, and for communities one step removed from Federation who are moved to give to Israel through Federation.

Framing the conversation and Federation's work:

Lead with your personal connection, stories, and heartbreak. This is a human crisis which impacts the entire Jewish world. Create space for participants to share their grief, especially any participants from Israel if they are in the room.

Offer a brief update about:

- The situation on the ground
- The needs of the moment
- The work of Federation and your local communities' impact

You can find recent [updates here](#) or [subscribe](#) to receive regular updates from JFNA about the war.

Build in additional Jewish values and prayer:

Frame with text or a prayer in your opening or closing using sources from this resource on [Jewish Values and Prayer About War](#).

Your Gift:

Use the options below for your pop-up giving circle grant or **feature your Federation's campaigns and/or funds**. If using four options or fewer, skip the "pitch" section in the pop-up guide. Instead, have a large group discussion after the breakout groups or go directly to voting.

1. [Local Support and/or Initiatives:](#)

Share the work you are doing to support your local community in this time or additional local funds. Describe the projects and support needed in detail. This can include:

- Supporting families coming from Israel with mental health or housing services. Fostering space for mourning and gathering. Build cross-faith and cross-community relationships with the JCRC. A Blue ribbon campaign distribution or event.

2. [Antisemitism and Advocacy:](#)

What is your Federation working on around antisemitism and ensuring that your local day schools, synagogues, JCCs, etc. are safe? Describe those initiatives and any new needs that have arisen since October 7th. Describe the funding priorities and what they will offer the community. If you are in an area that has college campuses with active Jewish life, consider discussing the Hillel, their actions and needs currently.

3. [Raising Money for Israel:](#)

Our Israel Emergency Fund is raising additional resources for this critical moment to support:

- Basic needs: Food and financial assistance for impacted families, the elderly, and the homebound.
- Evacuation, housing, respite, and support for frontline communities: Support for communities under fire and for new olim living in absorption centers through evacuations, temporary housing, respite trips, children's activities, and increased security.

- Funds for victims of terror: Provides immediate cash grants to families and individuals who have been impacted by acts of terror and violence, for post-trauma care, etc.
- Trauma relief and psychosocial care: Support widescale trauma relief and psychosocial support with expanded capabilities through telephone hotlines; providing direct care to first responders, Lone Soldiers, the injured, and families whose relatives were murdered, injured, or abducted; training and support for caregivers and responders including hospital emergency teams and municipal team.
- Emergency medical services and healthcare: Medical supplies and equipment for first responders and hospitals near the front line.
- Special populations: Targeted assistance to vulnerable populations and their caregivers, including the elderly, young children, people living with disabilities, and marginalized populations, such as the Ultra-Orthodox and Bedouin communities.
- Local efforts and volunteers: Enhance capacity and provide operational support to evacuees, special populations, frontline communities, and those responding to the crisis.

***Given the intensity and emotional aspect of the needs, your group might opt to just allocate all funds proportionally, or just give directly to Israel. In this case, a vote would not be necessary. Use your judgement and do what feels best. ***

At the end of your event:

Let participants know of any upcoming Federation events or ways to stay involved.

Let us know about your event and how it went, or reach out with questions:

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