

## Talking Points for Countering Anti-Israel Resolutions:

### When speaking:

- **DO** be courteous.
  - **DO USE FACTS - NOTHING ELSE (see below)**
  - **DO NOT** shout - stay calm.
  - **DO NOT** engage “the other side”.
  - **DO NOT** argue with council members.
  - **DO NOT** focus on whether the council is wasting taxpayer time or money. By law anyone, resident, and non-resident, are allowed to speak during the public forum.
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**Talking points:** As you listen to other members of the Jewish community speak, check off what has been said and when it’s your turn to speak, say something new. Pick from any of the below facts given it is relevant to the conversation. Talking points in bold are suggested to be included at every council meeting.

### Gaza War:

- On October 6 there was a ceasefire. Every innocent person dead today was alive.**
- On October 7, that all changed because Hamas attacked Israel and massacred over 1300 Israelis.**
- Hamas savagely raped women carried out hundreds of executions, beheadings, and kidnappings of all ages.**
- At past council meetings these facts were dismissed as lies and propaganda. Read the New York Times article with verified information or go to **www.saturday-october-seven.com** to see for yourself. Be warned - the contents are extremely graphic.
- Ceasefire now? This happens when Hamas surrenders, disbands, and all hostages returned immediately.**
- Hamas rejected THREE offers for a ceasefire and stated that they will not agree to any deal unless there is guarantee of a permanent ceasefire – an unrealistic request - Where is the outrage and protest?**
- Palestinian deaths – unfortunately in all wars there are civilian casualties - no exceptions.

- According to seasoned military experts, Israel does everything possible and more to avoid it, warning Palestinians to flee to safety by dropping millions of leaflets and making thousands of phone calls.
- **Hamas kills its own people by deliberately operating in civilian areas including, schools, hospitals, mosques and more recently, refugee centers, using their own population as human shields.**
  - Hamas is blocking evacuation telling all civilians to return to their homes to be used as human shields – Hamas is killing their own people. Go online to hear from Gazans.
  - The IDF has reported that 11,000+ of Palestinians killed are Hamas fighters.
  - 12% of Hamas rockets that misfired landed in Gaza killing hundreds if not more.
- Since the beginning of the war, hundreds of thousands of tons of aid for Gazans has been delivered by thousands of trucks.
- Hamas is stealing much of this and very little is getting to the Palestinian people. Check online to hear about this from Gazans.
- Hamas's tunnels measure between 350 and 450 miles in a territory that's just 25 miles long. (By comparison, the London Underground is only 249 miles long.)
- Many of them with access from civilian houses and some directly beneath Gaza City's main hospital, which U.S. intelligence agencies say was also used as a Hamas command center and was used to hold hostages.
- **How much did it cost? The Wall Street Journal, citing Israeli military officials, reported that the cost of building 32 tunnels (a small fraction of what has since been uncovered) came to around \$90 million. Where did this money come from and why wasn't it used to develop Gaza.**
- If Hamas surrenders and returns all the hostages, this will immediately solve the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

#### **ICJ ruling on 1/26/2024:**

- The ruling by the International Court of Justice, while deeply flawed, affirms Israel's right to continue defending itself from ongoing attacks by Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis.
- The court ruling ignores the significant measures that Israel is already taking in compliance with international law to avoid civilian casualties. Such as:

- Warning and evacuation of civilians ahead of attacks and establishing safe zones.**
- Provide humanitarian aid to the innocent people of Gaza while fighting an enemy that intentionally disregards the rules of war and embeds itself among civilians.**
- The court also ignores Hamas's strategy to maximize civilian loss and embed itself within the civilian population.**
- Israeli military and government leaders have repeatedly declared that the country is at war with Hamas and not the Palestinian people.
- All military operations carried out by the IDF are coordinated in accordance with the Military Advocate General (MAG) Corps, which is responsible for implementing the rules of war within the IDF and advising commanders ahead of strikes.
- The IDF also operates a 'Civilian Harm Mitigation Unit' whose entire role is to issue warnings ahead of strikes on military targets and coordinate the evacuation of civilians.
- Efforts to evacuate civilians: 1.5M pamphlets dropped, 20K phone calls, 4.4M texts, 6M pre-recorded calls.

#### **UNRWA:**

- 10% of UN Agency's 12,000 staff in Gaza have links to Hamas or Islamic Jihad**
- Info is valid – US and 15 other countries reviewed the info and paused funding. (73% of total budget).
- One worker is accused of kidnapping a woman.
- Another is said to have handed out ammunition.
- A third was described as taking part in the massacre at a kibbutz where 97 people died.**
- Based on their phones, Israeli intelligence established the movements of six of them inside Israel on Oct. 7.
- Some were monitored while making calls inside Gaza during which they discussed their involvement in the attack.
- Three others received text messages on 10/7 ordering them to report to assembly points.
- One was told to bring rocket-propelled grenades stored at his home.
- A counselor from Khan Younis, in southern Gaza, worked with his son to abduct a woman from Israel.**
- A social worker from Nuseirat, in central Gaza, helped bring the body of a dead Israeli soldier to Gaza.**
- This same worker also distributed ammunition and coordinated vehicles on the day of the attack.**

### **There is no genocide in Gaza:**

- From 1990 to 2022 the Palestinian population increased from 1.98 million to 5.4 million people.**
- This is a growth of 155% in 32 years.
- Current total: 5,431,422 / Growth: 2.3%.
- Genocide is literally the opposite of population growth. Jews know.**
- In Gaza, Hamas, elected by the people of Gaza, is the authority in charge of the Strip, and responsible for the well-being of its citizens.

### **Jews are not European Colonizers.**

- Jews have lived in the land of Israel for nearly 4000 years, going back to the period of when the Hebrew Nation or Children of Israel crossed the Jordan River into the Land of Israel.**
- The term "Jews" originates from the Biblical Hebrew word Yehudi, and in its original meaning refers to the people of the Tribe of Judah or the people of the Kingdom of Judah. The name of both the tribe and kingdom derive from Judah, the fourth son of Jacob.
- Jews have held a continuous presence there ever since, ruled by great kings, such as Saul, David, Solomon, and Herod.**
- Even when the Babylonians and Romans destroyed the first and second Temples and expelled most Jews in 585 BCE and 70 CE respectively, a portion of the Jewish population remained in Israel throughout the years of Jewish exile while the rest settled around the world and became the Jewish diaspora.**
- Jewish communities existed throughout much of this period in what is known as the Four Holy Cities: Jerusalem, Hebron, Safed (Tzfat), and Tiberias.
- A plethora of archeological evidence exists to support the claim that Jews are indigenous to the Holy Land from ancient coins, royal seals, and ancient text.**
- In the nineteenth century, as European Jews suffered from growing antisemitism and violence against them, a new ideology was born - Zionism, a national liberation movement of the Jewish people.
- Small groups of Zionist pioneers began returning to their ancient homeland in the late nineteenth century, joining the community of Jews who had never left, culminating with the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948.**

**There is no Apartheid:**

- Israel Democracy Institute: 8.4% of judges are Arab – one on the Supreme Court.
- 6% of lawyers in the Attorney General’s office are Arab.
- 30% of new doctors are Arabs.
- 15% of medical students in Israel are Arabs.
- 2000+ Israeli Arab police officers - Christians, Muslim, Druze, and Bedouins.
- 1000+ Israeli Arabs in the IDF.
- Palestinians from Gaza and West Bank have worked in Israel for decades alongside Israelis.
- The Palestinian Authority currently administers about 39% of the West Bank.
- Hamas governed 100% of Gaza.
- Not all Palestinians are Israel’s responsibility.

**The origin of the name Palestine:**

- The name for the Holy Land was changed in 135 CE, by the ancient Romans who renamed the province Syria Palaestina—that is, “Palestinian Syria” after stamping out the province of Judea’s second insurrection. They did so resentfully, as a punishment, to obliterate the link between the Jews.
- It is believed that “Palaestina” referred to the Philistines, whose home base had been on the Mediterranean coast and is the possible origin of the name Palestine, now used by the Arab population living between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

**Israel is NOT the aggressor:**

- Despite the overwhelming evidence of being the ancestral homeland of the Jewish people, it is unrealistic to ignore the reality on the ground recognizing that there is a need to live together with an Arab population on the same land.
- Since its establishment, the modern State of Israel has repelled multiple attempts by neighboring Arab countries and ongoing campaigns by terrorist groups to destroy it, The latest attempt on October 7, 2023, by the terrorist group Hamas.
- Hamas attacked Israel on internationally recognized sovereign territory.

- Arab countries and the Palestinians rejected 4 opportunities for peace with Israel on at least four occasions outlined below, that would have resulted in a Palestinian state.
  - 1947 UN partitioned plan - The UN voted to create two states, one Jewish and one Arab.
  - 1967 Six Day War -Israel offered to return all conquered land other than Jerusalem for peace but was met with the infamous three-Nos: no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel.
  - 2000: Camp David – PM Barak offered Arafat a Palestinian state in all of Gaza, and 94% of the West Bank, with East Jerusalem as its capital.
  - 2008: Olmert Plan – Bigger deal than above, 97% of West Bank and Gaza.