

We are heartbroken by the unprecedented Simchat Torah attack that has devastated our Israeli family and has left us in shock and despair. We mourn the dead, say prayers of healing for the wounded, and hope for a quick resolution.

We share the agony of the families and friends who have lost loved ones and those unconscionably being held hostage by terrorists in Gaza.

The Seattle Sephardic Network stands by Israel at this extraordinarily difficult time in the history of the Jewish State. This is a time for our Sephardic community – locally and beyond – to come together to help support each other and our Israeli family.

There are many ways we can respond. We offer these suggestions, borrowing from other Sephardic organizations we support:

Be Strong. We must remain proud of our Jewish identity and show solidarity to our family in the holy land.

Unite. This is the time to be one.

Be Vigilant. Be alert in and out of your homes, work, school, and communal settings. While we should not walk around scared, we should be cautious about our whereabouts.

Pray and Gather Together - At times like this, many people pray to G-d for help, either on our own or with a community. Individuals can recite these special Psalms: [20](#), [83](#), [121](#), [130](#), [142](#).

Join the community at one of many communal prayer and vigils locally and online.

Connect with in-person vigils, prayer services, and community rallies at any of your [local](#)

[Sephardic Synagogues](#), Jewish Federations and other organizations around the country.

Reach Out and Support - Connect with your friends and loved ones in Israel, even if you know they are currently out of harm's way. It is critical that our fellow Jews know that we support them right now more than ever before. Reach out to loved ones at home as well, as every Jew is feeling the impact of this catastrophe acutely.

Donate: Here are some vetted, legitimate charities. Only donate to charities that have been vetted; we've heard that the opposition is setting up fake charities to raise money from unwitting donors.

[Magen David Adom](#) – Supporting 33,000 paramedics, EMTs, first responders, and first-aid providers in Israel.

[NATAL: Israel Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War](#) – Offering mental health treatment in the realm of war- and terror-related trauma, PTSD, and resilience building within the community.

[Friends of the IDF](#) - The exclusive organization authorized to gather charitable donations for the soldiers of the Israel Defense Forces across the USA.

[Barzilai Hospital](#) – A frontline medical facility in Ashkelon, Israel, treating civilian victims and soldiers injured in combat.

At times like this, we look to the Torah and G-d for words of comfort:

שְׁאַלוּ שְׁלוֹם יְרוּשָׁלַם יְשֻׁלְיוֹ אֶהְבִּיבָהּ: יְהִי־שְׁלוֹם בְּחֵילְךָ שְׁלוֹהַּ בְּאַרְמְנוֹתֶיךָ:

Pray for the well-being of Jerusalem; “May those who love you be at peace. May there be well-being within your ramparts, peace in your citadels (Psalm 122:6-7).

Am Yisrael Chai!