

# Association of International Schools in Africa (AISA)



## Resource Guide: Addressing Community Tensions Related to the Israel / Gaza Conflict in International Schools

### Introduction:

In today's interconnected global society, the ripple effects of regional conflicts, such as the long-running Israel / Gaza conflict, often find their way into broader arenas. AISA schools, characterized by their diverse student and staff populations, are not exempt from these reverberations. Within AISA's Wellbeing Programme framework, our dedication to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) becomes paramount. This guide below is anchored in our DEIJ principles and endeavours to offer strategies to address the tensions and anxieties arising within the AISA school community related to global matters like the one unfolding in the Middle East.

### 1. Understanding and Empathizing with Issues

**Objective:** To cultivate an environment where students can grasp and empathize with diverse lived experiences.

#### Activities and Methods:

**Role Play and Simulation:** Organize workshops where students can take on different roles representing various perspectives on the conflict. This immersive experience can help them better appreciate the complex emotions and challenges of those involved.

**Guest Speakers:** Inviting individuals from varied backgrounds to share personal stories linked to the conflict can humanize the issues and stimulate empathy.

#### Recommended Resources:

**National Association of School Psychologists:** [Supporting Youth Affected by the Violence in Israel and Gaza: Tips for Families and Educators](#)

**Facing History & Ourselves:** [Processing the Violence in Israel and Gaza](#)

**The New York Times:** [Teaching About the Israel-Hamas War](#)

### 2. Respect for Differences

**Objective:** Foster an environment where students not only tolerate but genuinely respect and value diverse opinions.

#### Activities and Methods:

**Debate Sessions:** Facilitate structured debates on the conflict, ensuring each viewpoint is presented in a respectful manner. The process will teach students the importance of listening and valuing differing opinions.

**Reflection Journals:** Students maintain journals, documenting their insights, changing opinions, and growth over time, helping them track their evolving understanding.

Recommended Resources:

**Global Dimension:** <https://globaldimension.org.uk/articles/the-israel-hamas-conflict-a-discussion-guide>

### 3. Tolerance and Non-discrimination

**Objective:** Foster an inclusive environment that staunchly opposes any form of discrimination.

Activities and Methods:

**Anti-discrimination Workshops:** Organize sessions focusing on the pitfalls of discrimination, emphasizing the importance and benefits of a diverse community.

**Open Forums:** Create safe spaces where students can openly discuss their feelings, concerns, or experiences related to discrimination, ensuring they feel heard and supported.

Recommended Resources:

**Teaching Tolerance:** <https://www.tolerance.org>

### 4. Non-violent Conflict Resolution

Objective: Champion dialogue and understanding as the first line of defense against conflicts.

Activities and Methods:

**Mediation Training:** Offer training sessions where students learn techniques of mediation, understanding the power of conversation in resolving conflicts.

**Conflict Resolution Scenarios:** Introduce students to hypothetical situations, allowing them to practice and refine their negotiation and resolution skills in a controlled environment.

Recommended Resources:

Peace Education Foundation: <http://www.peaceeducation.com>

### 5. Acts of Kindness

Objective: To emphasize the impact and importance of compassion and active community support.

Activities and Methods:

**Kindness Week:** Dedicate a week where students, staff, and parents are encouraged to perform and document random acts of kindness, demonstrating the ripple effect of good deeds.

**Community Projects:** Organize outreach projects where students can actively support marginalized groups, teaching them the importance of community and service.

Recommended Resources:

Random Acts of Kindness Foundation: <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/for-educators>

### 6. Educational Awareness

Objective: Develop a community that is well-informed and proactive about global issues.

### Activities and Methods:

**Current Events Discussions:** Regularly allocate time in the curriculum for students to discuss and analyze global news, allowing them to connect classroom learning with real-world events.

**Research Assignments:** Encourage in-depth projects on global conflicts where students can critically evaluate causes, implications, and potential resolutions, fostering a deeper understanding of international issues.

### Recommended Resources:

**BBC Newsround:** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/67051424>

### For Further Assistance:

The Association of International Schools in Africa remains available for additional support and resources. Please check the [RESOURCES](#) section of our website. Or contact our Wellbeing for All Programme Coordinator Chanel Worsterling for more information [chanel@aisa.or.ke](mailto:chanel@aisa.or.ke).