

BS"D

CONNECTIONS ISRAEL

Bringing the Jewish People Together

Our obligation to help the families of Sderot

Goal: To internalize the meaning of the statement:
"All of Israel is responsible one for the other."

Target group: 12 - 18 years of age

Required Materials (Visual Aids):

A big poster with the statement of: "All of Israel is responsible one for the other."

Activity duration: 1.5 hours

Activity Outline:

- I) With the statement "All of Israel is responsible one for the other" at the front of the room, the group leader asks the participants to briefly jot down:

What this sentence means to them.

How this statement obligates them and to what?

Each of the participants shares with the group what he/she wrote.

II) The group leader then asks how this obligation makes them feel and leads a discussion about shared responsibility and shared fate.

II) The group leader tells the students about the case of the "Egla Arufa" and studies this segment with them.

If a corpse will be found on the land that Hashem, your G-d, gives you to possess it, fallen in the field, it was not known who smote him. Your elders and judges shall go out and measure toward the cities that are around the corpse. It shall be that the city nearest the corpse, the elders of that city, shall take a heifer, with which no work has been done, which has not pulled down with a yoke. The elders of that city shall bring the heifer down to a harsh valley which cannot be worked and cannot be sown, and they shall axe the back of his neck in the valley. The Priests, the offspring of Levi, shall approach, for them has Hashem, your G-d, chosen to minister to Him, and to bless with the name of Hashem, and according to their word shall be every grievance and every plague.

All the elders of that city, who are closest to the corpse, shall wash their hands over the heifer that was axed in the valley. They shall speak up and say: "Our hands have not spilled this blood, and our eyes did not see. Atone for your people Israel that You have redeemed, O Hashem. Do not place innocent

blood in the midst of Your people Israel!" Then the blood shall be atoned for them.

Deuteronomy 21: 1-9

This passage is a biblical example of communal responsibilities Jews have for one another.

III) Challenge Question: Can you think of a more modern example demonstrating Jewish mutual responsibility. After some discussion examples such as Operation Solomon (the Ethiopian airlift); Operation Thunderbolt (Entebbe); Solidarity Sunday (NY based demonstrations to free Soviet Jewry); UJA and other fundraising bodies that raise money for Jews in other locations etc. can be cited.

IV) The group leader asks the students if they think that this tradition of being responsible to all Jew brothers is still being kept today and if it is on a personal or only a communal level.

VI) Finally, each participant is challenged to think of one way in his/her life to act on this responsibility vis a vis the families of Sderot.