



## Hanukkah and Human Rights Program

### Rabbi Rebecca Rosenthal

**Time:** 1 Hour (if you would like to do this in a shorter amount of time, pick one of the three activities after review of the Hanukkah story)

**Ages:** 9-12, with or without parents

#### **Hanukkah Story (10 Minutes)**

Review Story of Hanukkah

Ask: What were the Maccabees standing up for?

Ask: Where are places that you know about where people don't have the freedoms that the Maccabees were fighting for?

#### **Activity A (15 Minutes)**

Do a Number Line

On the wall, post the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 and leave some space in between each one

Have kids and parents stand together in a group and explain the rules:

- 1 means strongly agree
- 2 means agree
- 3 means neutral
- 4 means disagree
- 5 means strongly disagree
- Leader will read a statement and each person decides if they agree or disagree and goes to that number

Statements:

- The freedom to be Jewish is important to my life
- Everyone should be able to practice whatever religion they want to
- When you see something wrong in the world, you should fight to stop it
- Everyone is responsible for everyone else in the world
- Jews should take care of other Jews before they take care of other people
- Everyone should have the right to say whatever they want
- Everyone should have the right to do whatever they want

After each statement, leader asks various people to share why they have gone to that corner. Then, leader asks the group to brainstorm what each statement has to do with the story of Hanukkah (don't have to do each one – leader can pick and choose)

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### **Activity B (15 Minutes)**

Discussion – Human Rights

- What are human rights?
- What human rights do you have?
- In groups of 2 or 3, look over the excerpt from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
  - Why do you think these rights were chosen?
  - Are there things that you would add to the list?
  - What does this have to do with Hanukkah
- Come back together to share what you have discussed

### **Activity C (20 Minutes)**

Drama Activity

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Hanukkah Story

- Divide into groups of 6-8 (kids alone or kids and parents)
- Each group has to make up a skit and present it to the rest of the group
- Each group is given one piece of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and they have to make a skit about Hanukkah that incorporates that piece into the skit
- After presenting the skit, the rest of the group has to guess what the piece was about

### **Supplies:**

- Numbers 1-5 written on paper and a way to hang them on the wall
- List of statements for the number line
- Sheets with Universal Declaration of Human Rights Excerpt
- Sheets of paper with one of the declarations written on it (for skit)

### **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Excerpt)**

**From:** <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/humanrights/resources/plain.asp>

- 1 When children are born, they are free and each should be treated in the same way. They have reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a friendly manner.
- 3 You have the right to live, and to live in freedom and safety.
- 4 Nobody has the right to treat you as his or her slave and you should not make anyone your slave.
- 5 Nobody has the right to torture you.



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D O J U S T I C E   a n d   R I G H T

- 17 You have the right to own things and nobody has the right to take these from you without a good reason.
- 18 You have the right to profess your religion freely, to change it, and to practise it either on your own or with other people.
- 19 You have the right to think what you want, to say what you like, and nobody should forbid you from doing so. You should be able to share your ideas also—with people from any other country.
- 26 You have the right to go to school and everyone should go to school. Primary schooling should be free. You should be able to learn a profession or continue your studies as far as you wish. At school, you should be able to develop all your talents and you should be taught to get on with others, whatever their race, religion or the country they come from. Your parents have the right to choose how and what you will be taught at school.