



ההסתדרות הציונית העולמית  
World Zionist Organization  
המחלקה לפעילות בתפוצות  
Department for Diaspora Activities

# Beit Ha'am

Z-Talks

בית העם

שיג ושיח ציוני

**Ohel Ha'Am**

Israel Social Protest 2011

**Housing**



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This booklet is for internal use only



The *Beit Ha'am* program was developed by the Department for Diaspora Activities in the World Zionist Organization to encourage discussion on the subject of Zionist identity and attitudes to the State of Israel.

The program includes diverse traditional and modern texts on a range of subjects.

Through encounter with these texts, we hope to encourage lively discussion of Zionist identity among Diaspora Jews in general, and the younger generation, in particular.

The discussion will address what binds the Jewish people, wherever they may be, as well as what divides and separates us.

We will consider the meaning of Jewish political independence of the people dwelling in Zion and the reciprocal relationships between Jews living in Israel and those who live in the Diaspora.

This represents an opportunity for everyone, irrespective of prior knowledge, to get to know and enhance their knowledge about the significance of Zionism in the 21st century, to engage in discussion, reflect on its substance and the extent of its relevance to our lives.

The *Beit Ha'am* program is currently available in Hebrew and English, and will be translated into other languages according to demand.

If you are interested in using the *Beit Ha'am* program, or would like to hear more about training counselors to work with the program, please contact the Department for Diaspora Activities at [noam@wzo.org.il](mailto:noam@wzo.org.il)

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# Introduction

The 2011 Social Protest in Israel is a significant social, political and cultural event. We invite educators and students to take a tour in the protest's tent cities to learn about and connect with the protest and Israel through signs, symbols and interactive activities.

The protest happened almost overnight: It started with a handful of tents, with no more than a few dozen Israelis who answered an internet invite for an ongoing protest against rising rent costs. In a few days the tents covered an entire block on Rothschild Boulevard, and a couple of days later, the tent protests came to dominate the news.

Soon after the movement started tent camps appeared in every major city in Israel- self-labeling as "Tent Cities." The tent cities popped up in Jerusalem, Be'er She'va (Southern Israel), and as far north as Kiryat Shmona, near the Lebanon border.

## **Using The Social Protest Kit:**

This booklet includes a detailed teacher's guide with a variety of discussion themes, questions, and activities. It is important to mention that the teacher or facilitator should consider the students' age group and the time frame when planning the lesson structure. This booklet includes ample educational options, scan them\* and feel free to chose what best fulfill your specific needs. It is not intended that all of the teaching materials in this booklet are to be covered and completed, please select items that suit your needs and wants for the program you are hosting.

\*Please note that for some discussions/activities the facilitator will need to make copies of the study text before hand.



# Poster Themes

Each of these themes tells a part of the story behind the protest. For an introductory presentation to the topic use the posters and information below:

**Housing-** The housing situation in Israel is the main cause and trigger to the social protest. This protest started when Dafni Lif, frustrated with the high rent, created a Facebook page calling people to join her in setting up tents on Rothschild Blvd.

There were two components to the protest: tent cities and protest rallies. Tent cities were established all around Israel and the biggest protest rally included 500,000 protesters.

**Health-** Although affordable housing was the main cause and demand of the first protesters, many other protesters joined demanding further social changes. Better health care and educational system were the next main demands on the list.

**Education-** The protest movement started as a middle class protest and many of the protesters were educated and hold an academic degree. As a result, this was an intellectual protest. Many discussions took place in the tent cities as people tried to come up with a solution for the social problems in Israel.

**The Diversity of Protestors-** The diversity in the tent cities was profound. Israeli Jews, Israeli Arab, illegal workers, right and left wing citizens, young and adult all joined together to protest for a better life in Israel.

**Social Justice-** Although the young, working class, started the protest and although housing, health and education were the main causes and demands, in a short time many other people from the Israeli society joined to protest and express their wishes, demands, and idea of social justice.

**Democracy & The Protest-** Israel's democratic principles enabled the activists to assemble in a well-organized and structured way. The protesters used their democratic rights to their advantage and formed a very peaceful and legal protest.



# Zionist Perspective

## Max Nordau, Address at the First Zionist Congress, Basel, August 29, 1897

*Max Simon Nordau (July 29, 1849 - January 23, 1923), in Pest, Hungary, was a Zionist leader, physician, author, and social critic. He was a co-founder of the World Zionist Organization together with Theodor Herzl, and president or vice president of several Zionist congresses.*

Such is the existing liberation of the emancipated Jew in Western Europe. He has given up his specifically Jewish character, but the peoples let him feel that he has not acquired their own special characteristics. He avoids the members of his own tribe as anti-Semitism has made him despise them and his fellow citizens repel him whenever he wants to associate with them. **He has lost his Ghetto-home and his country of birth is denied to him as his home.** The rug was pulled under him and he has no community to of which he is a true member. With his Christian countrymen neither his character nor his intentions can reckon on justice, still less on kindly feeling. With his Jewish countrymen he has lost touch: necessarily he feels that the world hates him and he sees no place where he can find warmth when he seeks for it.

## Theodor Herzl - The Jewish State

*Theodor Herzl, May 2, 1860 – July 3, 1904, also known as Hozeh HaMedinah, lit. “Visionary of the State” was an Austro-Hungarian journalist and the father of modern political Zionism and in effect the State of Israel. Beginning in late 1895, Herzl wrote Der Judenstaat, (The Jewish State). It was published February, 1896 to immediate acclaim and controversy. In the book he outlines the reasons for the Jewish people, who so desire, to return to their historic homeland, Palestine.*

“And what glory awaits those who fight unselfishly for the cause! Therefore I believe that a wondrous generation of Jews will spring into existence. The Maccabeans will rise again. Let me repeat once more my opening words: The Jews who wish for a State will have it. **We shall live at last as free men on our own soil, and die peacefully in our own homes.** The world will be freed by our liberty, enriched by our wealth, magnified by our greatness. And whatever we attempt there to accomplish for our own welfare, will react powerfully and beneficially for the good of humanity.” (The Jewish State, Chapter 6).



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(The Jewish State, Chapter 6).

**After reading the texts of the founders of the Zionist movement, what is the special meaning of “home” and “house” in Zionist terminology?**

**Do you think these Zionist ideas should influence on the housing policy of the Israeli government?**

## **Jewish Immigration & Amidar**

During the first decade of the State’s existence, Israel had to absorb significant waves of immigration: the number of Jewish residents in Israel grew from approximately 650,000 in 1948 to 1.81 million in 1958 ,an increase of 180 percent in one decade. Immediate housing solutions were required to meet the needs of the newly arrived immigrants.

Because of actions taken in the 1940s, the private market was unable to satisfy the demand for housing, especially during the early years of the State. The State thus became largely responsible for housing policy during this period and was responsible for planning, construction, and the dispersal and settling of immigrants.





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שיג ושיח ציוני

אוהל העם

מחאה חברתית

בישראל 2011

דיור

