# Women Who Spark Change: Then And Now

**Facilitator Guide** 

In anticipation of International Women's Day and the fast of Esther, how might we draw inspiration from Queen Esther and Henrietta Szold's actions to spark change in our communities today and do our part to bring the hostages home?

#### FRAMING THE ISSUE

March is the month when we celebrate women as changemakers, both on International Women's Day and on Ta'anit Esther and Purim. Esther and Henrietta Szold are two examples of female figures in our communal history who sparked important change for the Jewish people. How might we draw inspiration from Esther and Henrietta Szold's actions to spark change in our communities today and do our part to bring the hostages home?

# LET'S EXPLORE

Facilitator opens with the framing above and divides participants into two groups: Group Queen Esther and Group Henrietta Szold.

- Each group has half an hour to take turns reading the sources aloud and discuss the questions on the source sheet.
- After half an hour, the groups switch characters and learn about the other woman's activism.
- Facilitator brings both groups together to engage participants in a larger discussion of what they learned and what inspiration they got from the two women.
- As a full group, the facilitator leads them in taking on their own action on behalf of the hostages, from the options listed below.

Scroll of Esther, Italy, 1617
The National Library of Israel

# **Info For Facilitator**



#### **Target Audience:**

Middle School, Teens



## **Length Of Program:**

75-90 minutes



# Materials & Prep:

- · Printed copies of the source sheet
- Art supplies or devices for poster making
- Facilitator should watch this film about Henrietta Szold and decide whether it would be useful and appropriate for their learners.







# TAKE ACTION!

Inspired by the activism of women like biblical Esther and more recently, Henrietta Szold, invite participants to do their own advocacy. Depending on the setting, choose any or all of the options below to engage in activism with your learners:

- Political Advocacy: Call or email your local politicians demanding they do everything in their power to bring the hostages home.
- Communal Fast or Prayer: What could our community of learners do in anticipation of the Fast of Esther (this year on 11 Adar Bet, March 21, 2024) to add an element of awareness for the plight of the hostages?
- Education and Awareness: Create a handmade or digital poster that can be used to create awareness of the hostage crisis. You could incorporate this quote by Henrietta Szold as part of your poster:
  - "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek." - Henrietta Szold
- Don't stop at your own advocacy. Encourage others to take action as well! Craft an email, text, or social media post to encourage others to contact their elected officials and take action.

## CLOSING INTENTION

Read the following quote:

- Henrietta Szold once said, "Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we have been waiting for. We are the change that we seek."
- Share the sentiment that just as Esther and Henrietta Szold worked with their communities to spark change, you too can spark change and help bring the hostages home.
- Ask participants to take turns filling in the blank: "I am going to spark change by

תענית אויף אידישעו חורבן! שרעקליכע קאמאסמראפע וואס ראט געמראפען דעם אידישען פאלו ווען סיליאנען פון אונוערע בעסמע זיהן און מעכמער וענען אומנעקומען דו נרוחאמע מיתות משונות האבען די רפנים פין דער גאנצער וועלם ערקלערם מישוואך, דעם במען מארמש ערות ניסן אלם א מאג פון טרויער 14 דערום טיר, די אונמערנעצייבענמע רבנים פון טינעאפאלים, רופען אלע אידען אנסיילצונעסען אין דיזען וועלם תענית לוים דיזע פראגראם: סיסוואך פריה וועם מען דאוונען אין אלע שוהלען, לייענען ויחל, און ואגען מימוואד פארנאכם, 6:30 יועלען פיר אלע אפראלפען מארנען אין 12שע עווענה נארשה בדים שוווענה נארשה מים דעם אנמייל פון אלע רבנים א הזכרה דועם נעמאכם ווערען פאר די אלע קדושים וואס זענען אימנעקומען אין דיזע מלחמה קוסם אלע פתפלל זיין צוואמען אז דער אייבערשמער זאל מאבען א מוף צו יוע בלוםינע סלחסה און אינוערע קינדער ואלען וואם שנעלער צוריק קיסען צו זייערע הייסען לשלום. שלמה שוק למיין In accordance with the proclamation of the Chief Rubbinate of Palestine and of Orthodox Rubbis of America and Canada, that Wedassday, March 14, shall be and prayer, we call space everyone to perficipate in a joined prayer, which win this perficular day, 4:20 p. m., at the Sharai Zedeck Synagogue, Margan and T. Narth. Let us pray tagether, to heaven, for the termination of this bleedy we safe roturn of our sons and daughtern. DAVID ARONSON ISRAEL FRIEDMAN ALBERT L GORDON

Call for a Fast Day The National Library of Israel

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