



# HONOR A **HOSTAGE**

**Every hostage in captivity has a story to tell. As we pray for their release, we encourage your congregation to honor a hostage and their story by making a space for them in your community.**

Visit [blueribbonsforisrael.org/bring-them-home](https://blueribbonsforisrael.org/bring-them-home) to see the names and photos of the hostages held captive by Hamas terrorists.

You can identify one or more hostages for your community to honor through symbolic and meaningful action in your congregation—some ideas follow. Encourage your congregants to share photos and reflections with their friends and family to remind every hostage and their family that they are not suffering alone.

## **Ways to honor your selected hostage(s):**

- Leave an empty chair on the *bimah* during Shabbat services with a blue sash and photo.
- Speak about the hostage during services; perhaps before the Prayer for Israel or the *Mi Shebeirach* (prayer for healing).
- Host a vigil for the hostages, featuring information and photos of your selected hostage; invite congregants and community members to participate.
- Add a blue ribbon symbol with the name of your hostage to your synagogue website.
- Order or create your own blue ribbons to wear.
- Have your *b'nei mitzvah* "twin" with or otherwise recognize a hostage.
- Hang a sign or banner outside your building: "Free the Hostages Now."
- Ask congregants to leave a symbolic empty seat at their Shabbat table for the hostage.
- Conduct a religious school project related to the hostages.
  - Invite students to research individuals and share during Shabbat or religious school assembly what they learn, finding and using reputable sources online.
  - Write letters to the United Nations or Red Cross asking them to leverage their power to release the hostages.
  - Write letters to hostages' families, if central contact information has been released.
- Share information about your hostage on social media while calling for their safe return.