



ACT 13!

Activist Certification and Training
for B'nai Mitzvah Students



LOCAL ACTION • GLOBAL RESULTS
FIGHT GENOCIDE

ACT13! Curriculum ©2010

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MEMBER SYNAGOGUES

Adat Ari El	Temple Beth Sholom	Mishkon Tephilo
Temple Adat Elohim	Temple Beth Torah	Nashuva
Adat Shalom	Congregation B'nai Brith	Congregation Or Ami
Temple Ahavat Shalom	B'nai David-Judea Congregation	Pasadena Jewish
Temple Ahavat Torah	Temple B'nai Hayim	Temple and Center
Temple Akiba	B'nai Horin	Temple Ramat Zion
Temple Aliyah	Congregation B'nai Israel	Congregation Shir Ami
American Jewish University Rabbinical Students	Congregation B'nai Tzedek	Shomrei Torah Synagogue
Temple Ami Shalom	Burbank Temple Emanu El	Shtibl Minyan
Temple Beth Am	Temple Emanuel	Temple Sinai of Glendale
Temple Beth El	Temple Etz Chaim	Sinai Temple
Temple Beth El	IKAR	Stephen S. Wise Temple
Temple Beth El of South Orange County	Temple Isaiah	Congregation Tikvat Jacob
Beth Chayim Chadashim	Temple Israel of Hollywood	UCLA Hillel
Congregation Beth David	Temple Judea	University Synagogue – Los Angeles
Temple Beth David	Kehillat Israel	University Synagogue – Irvine
Temple Beth Haverim	Kehillat Ma'arav	USC Hillel
Temple Beth Hillel	Congregation Kol Ami	Valley Beth Shalom
Temple Beth Israel	Kol Tikvah	Valley Outreach Synagogue
Congregation Beth Meier	Leo Baeck Temple	Westwood Kehilla
Temple Beth Shalom	Makom Ohr Shalom	Young Israel of Century City
Beth Shir Sholom	Malibu Jewish Center & Synagogue	



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INTRODUCTION

Dear Dedicated Religious School Director and Teacher,

Welcome to ACT13!, Jewish World Watch’s curriculum for Bar and Bat Mitzvah aged students. ACT 13! was created to harness the passion of young Jewish students as they enter adulthood by honing their activist skills. This six-lesson series offers students the skills they need to become well-rounded activists and guides them in becoming active partners in the effort to end genocide and other mass atrocities, wherever and whenever they occur.

The ACT 13! curriculum is modular: as it is a skills-based curriculum, each lesson included can be modified to explore the ongoing crises in Sudan, Congo or both. Indeed, the skills developed through this curriculum are the skills necessary for activism on any issue!

Everything you need to implement each lesson is included in this manual and the enclosed JWW flash drive. As always, the entire Jewish World Watch staff is available to help in any way possible – we can speak to your class or your synagogue, send you additional resources, give you updates on the current situations in Sudan or Congo and much, much more!

Finally, we need your feedback! Help us build and improve our ACT 13! curriculum by completing our evaluation when you have finished implementing the program.

In the five years since its founding, JWW has proven that together we – each of us in our community who stands up, takes notice and refuses to remain silent – can create monumental and permanent change. We thank you for being a part of this incredible effort!

Sincerely,

Naama Haviv
Assistant Director

Mina Rush
Synagogue Resource Director

Michelle Westmiller
Student Activist Organizer

ACT13!

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



Lesson 1 – EDUCATE

Hochman (Wisdom) - The Importance of Story Telling

Through stories, videos and quotes, students learn about Jewish World Watch’s origin, mission and purpose. Students discuss modern Jewish quotes as they relate to how Jews use storytelling to inspire action and how our Jewish tradition has informed activism through the ages.

Lesson 2 – EDUCATE

L’ilmod (Learn) - Educating Ourselves and Others

Individual survivors’ stories bring a human connection to the broader crisis situation as students explore the conflicts in Sudan or Congo.

Lesson 3 – ADVOCATE

Avodat Tzevet (Teamwork) - Our Community, Made of Pieces

Through a team-building exercise, students learn to appreciate how important it is to work together when dealing with large issues. As they assess their own strengths and weaknesses, they learn that their community is strengthened by the variety of skills they each individually offer.

Lesson 4 – ADVOCATE

L’daber (Speak) - Applying Knowledge to Action

After being introduced to the concept of “Holy Chutzpah,” students identify and discuss biblical, political, communal and personal figures who are activists, acknowledging that every person can make an impact on many levels. The students take on an activist project of their own, becoming a link in the chain of activists before them. These projects empower them to voice their positions in order to instigate change in a way that will command the respect and consideration of policy makers.

Lesson 5 – DEVELOPMENT

L’hachlit (Decide) - Exploring the Possibilities

Students are asked to think like a donor and critically evaluate and debate the merits of actual relief and development projects currently funded in Sudan and Congo. After hearing about fundraising projects their peers have organized to benefit the work of JWW, the students brainstorm the type of project the class would like to develop to help fund JWW’s high-impact, on-the-ground projects.

Lesson 6 – DEVELOPMENT

Pe’ulah (Action) - Time to ACT!

In this final lesson, students reflect on their ACT13! experience and link *Chesed* (loving kindness) to taking action. The students focus their time in this lesson on planning, organizing and advertising for their development event.

ACT13!

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