

JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

“The Forgotten Refugees Educational Unit”

CURRICULUM INITIATIVE FOR JEWISH SCHOOLS

Produced by:

Justice for Jews from Arab Countries and

The David Project Center for Jewish Leadership

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It is our hope that this *Forgotten Refugees Educational Unit* will continue to evolve and improve with the help of Jewish educators. If you have any suggestions for additional material or comments about the current *Educational Unit*, please let us know.

THIS *FORGOTTEN REFUGEES EDUCATIONAL UNIT*

IS NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE AT:

www.justiceforjews.com/educationalunit.html

Introduction

Dear Educator,

We would like to thank you for your interest in this important educational initiative about Jews from Arab countries.

When the word ‘refugees’ is mentioned in the context of the Middle East, people invariably refer to Palestinian refugees. The story of over 850,000 Jews, uprooted since 1948 from thousands of Jewish communities that had existed in the region for 2,500 years, has often been ignored.

Little is heard about these Jewish refugees from Arab countries because they did not remain refugees long. Some two-thirds went to Israel while the rest found safe haven in Europe, North America and elsewhere.

This *Educational Unit* is designed to assist you and your students in learning, and engaging in informed discussion, about this historical displacement of Jews from Arab countries. Its objectives:

- 1) To educate students about the history, heritage and subsequent plight and flight of Jews from Arab countries; and
- 2) To inform students about, and facilitate their engagement in larger, contemporary Jewish issues – in this case, Middle East refugees.

We recognize that many teachers face time constraints with their existing curricular requirements. Therefore, as a guide for educators, this *Educational Unit* provides an invaluable collection of guided lesson plans; a 15 minute DVD film entitled “*The Forgotten Refugees*”, produced by the David Project and directed by Michel Grynzspan; optional lessons, resource materials, and suggestions for further inquiry. There are suggestions and options provided on how to use these materials in Jewish educational school settings.

The *Unit* also provides suggestions for expanding the educational opportunities to a wider audience:

- The movie could be screened at a special assembly, with perhaps a “living witness” from an Arab country invited to share his/her story;
- The “*Registration and Research Activity*” would allow interested students to be trained as volunteers to conduct and tape interviews with Jews who fled an Arab country;
- There is also a list of suggestions on how educational materials could be utilized in co-curricular activities at different times of the year (See attached Appendix A: p. 8).

We thank you for both participating in this educational initiative and for all your efforts on behalf of educating young Jews throughout the year.

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THE FORGOTTEN REFUGEES CURRICULUM

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