

ABOUT THE YEAR OF CIVIL DISCOURSE



WHY A YEAR OF CIVIL DISCOURSE?

The time has never been more urgent for learning and practicing civil discourse. Political polarization viewpoints on Israel and other challenging issues is increasingly charged. We sometimes find ourselves digging in and building walls rather than reaching out and seeking to understand. As a result, our ability to stand in unity to address the most pressing issues facing the Jewish community and to advocate externally for our collective concerns is in jeopardy. Our community's ability to be inclusive and engaging is under threat.

WHAT IS THE YEAR OF CIVIL DISCOURSE INITIATIVE?

The Year of Civil Discourse (YCD) Initiative is a project of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Hartford and the Jewish Leadership Academy. YCD will:

- Strengthen our collective ability to discuss difficult issues with respect, inclusivity, and intelligence
- Build trust around divergent views on Israel and other wedge issues
- Safeguard our community relationships

YCD programs will include:

- Community events that model civil discourse on controversial issues
- Facilitator training sessions, where lay and professional leaders learn to assist in difficult discussions
- Coaching and assistance in managing sensitive issues
- Study materials, templates, and best practices to help foster civil discourse

At YCD programs you can expect to find:

- A safe environment where we can examine complex issues together without fear
- Tools to help you amplify the voice of moderation when sensitive issues arise
- Respect and regard for your own role in the conversation

JOIN US!

Let's create a culture that advances our common interests and that enables vibrant, respectful discussion on Israel and other hot-button issues. Let's make civil discourse the norm in our Jewish community and beyond. Please join us in a Year of Civil Discourse.

To learn more, contact Laura Zimmerman, Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council, at 860.727.6167 or lzimmerman@jewishhartford.org.