10 Actions Jewish Communities Should Take to Protect Themselves

1. **Form a security committee and appoint someone to oversee security matters.** Every institution has unique concerns and challenges when it thinks about security. Having a security committee will help to ensure the safety and comfort of the members of the organization; having one individual who oversees this effort will ensure follow-up and coordination with other facilities and law enforcement partners.

2. **Conduct a thorough risk assessment.** A security strategy begins with understanding your facility's strengths and vulnerabilities. Evaluate entry points, windows, public areas, and event spaces. Contact your local community security professional or SCN to schedule a Threat, Vulnerability, and Risk Assessment; if direct support is not immediately available, SCN offers self-assessments that can be reviewed and validated by a Jewish community security professional.

3. **Coordinate closely with Jewish community security professionals and local law enforcement.** Ensure your Jewish community security professional (whether local or regional), police, emergency responders, and security partners are informed about events and activities and have the most up-to-date facility information, including names and contact information of designated points of contact, along with internal facility diagrams.

4. **Develop and implement a physical security plan.** Incorporate measures such as access control, automatic locking doors, security cameras, and reinforced entry and exit points to reduce exposure to potential threats. Utilize SCN's updated Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) template to guide planning.

5. **Address perimeter security and access control.** Individuals are increasingly seeking to disrupt Jewish life by staging demonstrations and, often, blocking access to Jewish facilities and impeding the movement of Jewish community members. In recent instances, individuals have tried to gain access or have gained access to Jewish institutions and events.

6. **Train staff, volunteers, and the community. Then train again.** Training saves lives. Provide regular training for staff, leadership, volunteers, and community members on situational awareness, recognizing suspicious behavior, and responding to emergencies. Involve volunteers in structured safety roles, where appropriate.

7. **Plan for special events and high-risk days.** Revisit each event's size, space, and layout, along with the potential audience and specific threats, to help inform and modify security plans to fit specific needs. Utilize SCN's updated event planning guides.

8. **Stay up to date on current threat information.** Monitor local and national threat reporting and sign up for alerts from your local and regional security professionals to ensure timely and verified information.

9. **Review, evaluate, practice, and update regularly.** Treat security as an ongoing process by running drills, reviewing protocols, and making updates based on lessons learned or changes in the threat environment.

10. **Maintain first aid and medical supplies.** Ensure every facility has a functional AED, first-aid kits, and Stop the Bleed supplies readily available for emergencies.