

EXPRESSIONS OF VALUES

What is the value of this exercise?

When we disagree with others, we may assume that we do not have shared values. This activity illustrates that we often do share values—and our differences can lie in the way we prioritize them. Recognizing the possibility of shared values, and the diversity of views informed by individual experiences, may allow us to better understand those whose views we do not share.

This activity is not intended to negate or gloss over significant ideological, political, or other differences. Rather, it can help foster conversation that extends beyond immediate disagreements, with the aim of finding common ground and building bridges despite differences.

PART 1: VALUES ACTIVITY

1. Divide into small groups and have each participant begin by turning over the Democracy card and share:

What does this value mean to me?

*How is it expressed in my life? In North America?
In Israel?*

2. Set aside the Democracy card and introduce the Security card. Answer the same questions. Once both values have been discussed, reflect on the following:

What are examples of when these two values are in harmony, and when they are in tension?

How would you prioritize between the two values when they come into tension?

PART 2: VALUES IN TENSION

1. Select two additional values cards and repeat the exercise.
2. Now, organize all four values in order of personal priority.
3. Debrief: Compare and discuss similarities and differences around prioritization across the four values.

Where were you similar? Different?

Why did you prioritize certain values over others?

*Note: Time permitting, you can add rounds with additional cards and then ask everyone to prioritize all of the cards under discussion. When asking individuals to prioritize values, be clear that you are **not** asking them to **choose** a value nor come to a group consensus. Each of us holds multiple values, but when they come into tension, we must prioritize some over others.*

PART 3: REFLECTION

Note: Part of the exercise is to recognize that there are many different ways to think about individual values.

Review the remaining values cards and write your own values on the blank cards. Lay out the cards so all can be viewed and arrange them so that all values are ranked according to your own priorities.

What was easy about this activity? What was difficult?

Can someone share what they ranked first and/or last, and why?

Where were the areas of greatest common ground? Greatest divergence? What might we understand from these commonalities and differences?



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PART 4: IMPLICATIONS

1. Think of a policy issue of concern to you.
2. Discuss a range of opinions/possibilities around this issue.
3. Identify specific values (and values in tension) that influence your views around this policy.

How is the conversation about this topic different/similar when framed within a values-based approach?



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Democracy

דמוקרטיה

demokratya



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Security

ביטחון

bitachon



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Diversity

רב-גוניות

rav-goniut



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Equality

שוויון

shivyon



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Freedom

חירות

cherut



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Justice

קַדְשׁ

tzedek



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Equity

הוגנות

hog'nut



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Kindness

אדיבות

adivut



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Unity

אחדות

achdut



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Uniformity

אחידות

achidut

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