



Solidarity Complex



Introduction (20 Minutes)

Who's in the Room

Why We're Here

Group Agreements (suggested)

- Speak honestly from your personal opinions and experiences
- Listen fully and “hang in there” when you hear something challenging
- Share airtime and don't interrupt others
- Avoid personal attacks – focus on critiquing ideas
- Try not to make assumptions about other peoples' beliefs or motives – instead, talk with them and test your assumption
- If someone speaks in a small group or one-on-one, assume the comment is confidential unless they give you permission to share it
- Make the most of this chance to learn from each other

Personal Connections

Say a few words about your personal connection to the region. Why do you care about the Middle East and what happens there, and why do you choose to devote energy to these issues? What from your personal experience has led you in this direction?

Part I: Film Screening (15 Minutes)

Solidarity Complex is a new short documentary film by James Sevitt and Vika Evdokimenko, and an educational resource produced by the New Routes Trust, which takes a look at the rallies that occurred in London, UK during the war in Gaza and southern Israel.

Part II: Small Group Discussion (20 Minutes)

What are your initial reactions to watching the film? What do you think about the questions it poses?

What specific terms and messaging depicted in the film “pushed your buttons”? What do you think is particularly useful/effective language, and what do you think is destructive? If you could change specific messaging within these protests, what would you change and why?

Does the film resonate with any of your experiences during the war in Gaza and southern Israel? If you attended rallies/protests/vigils, what was your impression of them -- were they more focused on owning the moral high ground or bringing an end to the conflict? What specifically made these actions constructive or unconstructive, in your opinion?

If you could plan a more constructive public action during a similar time of crisis, what would it look like?

Part III: Large Group Discussion (30 Minutes)

The following questions are posed at the conclusion of the film:

So where does this leave us when the rallies end and the crowds disperse?

How effective are such rallies in building the political pressure for the peace that the majority so clearly desire?

In taking action, are people actually more concerned with being right and owning the moral high ground than being successful?

Bringing the discussion “home”:

[From the film] What new forms of solidarity can we create so as to maximize the impact of public action and focus our energies on pursuing justice and security for all?

On our campus specifically, what messaging do you feel is missing, drowned out, or needs to be given more prominence? Rather than playing the blame game, what are concrete steps we can take together to move our campus toward more constructive discourse around the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Closing (5 Minutes)