Limits of Labels: Addressing the Challenges to Jewish Unity

JEWISH LABELS - TRIGGER STATEMENTS

ICEBREAKER: What do these trigger statements mean to you?

READ ALOUD

We all have our own ideas surrounding how we identify with being a Jew. For some it is their level of religious observance; for others it is in regards to their ethnic and cultural background; and for others it is the innate connection they feel to the land of Israel - the home of the Jewish people.

To begin, we are going to respond to various "Trigger Statements" as a group. The answers can be called out at random, or written down on paper. (10 minutes)

- Being "part of the Jewish people" makes me feel like ...
- Being "part of the Jewish people" connects me to ...
- Being "part of the Jewish people" gives me the opportunity to ...
- Being "part of the Jewish people" adds meaning to my life because ...
- Being "part of the Jewish people" positively shapes the way I ...
- Being "part of the Jewish people" helps me to ...

AFTER TRIGGER STATEMENT DISCUSSION:

Have participants discuss a comment thread between their responses to the above. How would they define "the Jewish people?" Do they feel a sense of connection to "the Jewish people?" Why or why not? (This will help guide the narrative for the activity).

