

**Reflection on events during/after October 7th in Australia
by Noah Fleiszig, Year 10 student at The King David School**

After we celebrated Simchat Torah in Australia we woke up to the news that 1200 Israeli citizens and other foreign nationals had been tortured & murdered by Hamas. Some 251 of the survivors were kidnapped and taken as hostages to Gaza on October 7. In Australia on October 9 we witnessed Muslims in Sydney celebrating Hamas's actions and proclaiming chants critical of Jews. The events of October 7 & 9 were truly abhorrent and contributed to an increasing level of antisemitism in both Australia and the rest of the world. In Australia prior to October 7, we had never really experienced the levels of antisemitism that now permeate through society. This is most clearly apparent at our universities, including the University of Sydney where Jewish students are deeply concerned for both their wellbeing and safety. In the wider community we have witnessed many instances of discrimination against people solely based on the fact they are Jewish. There doesn't appear to be a desire from government to take this issue seriously which makes members of the Jewish community even more apprehensive about their future in Australia. Governments must put party political considerations aside in favour of a bipartisan commitment to combat racism in all forms which includes antisemitism.