



**PRIDE IN THE  
LIVINGROOM**

# HOST KIT



**THE AGUDA**

THE AGUDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER  
AND PROVIDES AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN  
FOR ALL EMPLOYEES AND APPLICANTS



# INTRO

Hi! Welcome to Pride in The Living Room!

If you have received or made your way to this HOST KIT - that means you are either about to start planning your event, or you are taking interest in hosting one!

**Either way, we are thrilled you are here. Hosting a Pride in the Living Room event means taking responsibility over shaping the connection between Jewish/Religious identities and LGBTQ+ identities.**

Pride in the Living Room is an international initiative founded in memory of victims of the 2009 "Bar Noar" LGBTQ+ Center shooting, and the 2015 Jerusalem Pride stabbing attack. The initiative was introduced by The Aguda as a way to expose people to LGBTQ+ stories and to help bridge between communities, minorities, religions and various groups in society.

**Through Pride in the Living Room participants can create safe spaces for discussion about the complex relationship between religion and LGBTQ+ identities.** Personal stories told in these events followed by open and safe discussions pull hearts together, and bring change in every corner of our society.

No matter where you are around the world, this HOST KIT is here to help guide you through the process of creating a meaningful and impactful event in your community.

**So welcome to our global net of influencers!**

## Kit Content

Details on how to structure a Pride in the Living Room event.

Useful tips and recommendations on how to create a powerful and meaningful experience for your community and event participants.

Additional links, information, and tools that will enhance your event.

So what does a Pride in the Living Room event look like?

The host/organizer of a Pride in the Living Room event can always change or adapt the structure of the event. Always go with what you feel works best for you and your community/audience.

**We generally recommend going with this structure:**

1<sup>st</sup> part

## Personal Story

A personal story told by an LGBTQ+ community member/activist/person of interest/religious figure who you think has something to say about Jewish (or any religious) LGBTQ+ identities. You can always tell your own story!

2<sup>nd</sup> part

## Facilitated Discussion

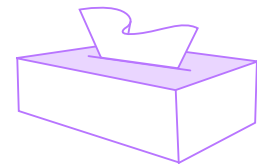
The discussion is your chance to enhance your speaker's impact by creating an open and safe space for people to share their thoughts and feelings, and also a place to ask the tougher questions in a safe and respectful environment. Don't forget that it's these discussions that have the power to bring people together and break barriers.



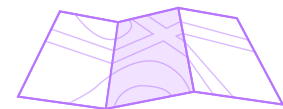


## Tips for telling a strong personal story

Remember, the aim of a personal story is to create a connection between you and your audience through the emotional experiences that you went through. **People connect to personal stories through identifying with feelings.**



A personal story ranging between 20-30 minutes will most commonly consist of 4-5 “scenes” or chapters/ time frames. It is easier to follow someone's story when the narrative is chronological. Telling your story chronologically is not a must, but **we recommend having a clear starting point, and linking points** between the different “chapters” of your personal story.



It is always useful to start your personal narrative with a short introduction about yourself, who you are and what brought you to tell your story.

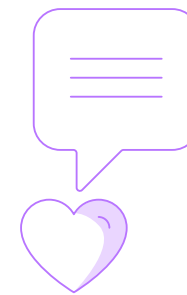
**Always strive to create an intimate, personal and emotional relationship with your audience.**





## Tips for telling a strong personal story

Know ahead of time what parts or chapters of your personal story are most relevant to the message or value that you are trying to get across. We have a tendency to think that our lives and personal stories of identity may not be very “interesting” or “dramatic”. But - if you know ahead of time what points or chapters in your story shaped you most and emotionally changed or impacted you - mark those chapters as relevant for your story. **People will be drawn to your story, when they experience through you, those feelings and experiences you remember.**



Do your best to **know your audience** ahead of time.



Emotions are always welcome when it comes to telling personal stories. We'll want to use the emotions we felt in order to captivate and connect our audience. But sometimes, it is not always enough to say “I felt happy” or “anxious”. **Always aim to describe the experience you had while feeling a specific emotion.** That way your audience will be able to imagine and better relate. For example, “I felt so nervous, I remember feeling a sense of dryness in my mouth, my hands started to tremble and I started to sweat profusely”.



# Hosting a VIRTUAL event

Pride in the Living Room events can always take place virtually, if you feel it's right for your community

Here are a few tips and suggestions to take in mind while planning a virtual event

## Structure:

Opening Message  
(5-7 Mins)



Personal Story  
(15-20 Mins)



Discussion  
(10-20 Mins)

\* We recommend leading a slightly shorter event than in-person ones

Choose a digital platform of your preference, and get to know it well! **Make sure you know how to create an event and run it** (ZOOM, Google Hangouts, etc)

**Create an RSVP mechanism.** You may use a digital platform with sign up sheets (Google forms, Facebook groups/ events etc)

Send your participants the event info and links **ahead of time**

Initiate the meeting at least **15-20 mins ahead of time**

Whilst waiting for your audience to join the meeting, we recommend using the **"Beginning Shortly" video image**, downloadable on the Pride in the Living Room website

If your event speaker/personal story is a recorded message, be sure to **"share audio"** from your computer

Consider splitting up your audience into **"breakout rooms"** to ensure intimate spaces for dialogue and sharing

While leading a discussion, always ensure you are **allowing everyone to speak**. The host should act as a moderator for the discussion, choosing who speaks accordingly

We recommend asking people to have their **cameras on** (If they are ok with it)

If you don't feel confident enough to run the technical side of the event yourself, **consider asking a friend** or colleague who is familiar with these platforms to join and oversee the technical side while you lead the event content





## Tips for leading a powerful DISCUSSION

The discussion is an opportunity for the host to use the speaker's personal story as a jumping off point for a discussion. It is not a must, but strongly recommended. Anyone can lead the discussion, whether the host, the speaker or anyone else.

We also encourage you to take advantage of the informality of Pride in the Living Room events, and create spaces for dialogue that allow people to ask tough questions. **Your goal as a host or discussion leader is to allow people to feel comfortable sharing and asking hard, even “politically incorrect” or intriguing questions.**

So long as you manage these discussions in a respectful manner, people will open up to hearing, understanding, and accepting different views and opinions.

### Optional discussion points:

Would anyone like to share why they are here? Or why they chose to participate?

Would anyone like to share their thoughts or feelings about our guest speakers' personal story? Can anyone relate?

What do you think we can do to bridge between religious identities and LGBTQ+ identities?

How can we empower those who are afraid to create links between Jewish/Religious identities and LGBTQ+ identities?

How can we reach out and strengthen all identities on the LGBTQ+ rainbow in our Jewish/other religious communities, circles or work spaces?

**These are all suggestions, but feel free to lead the discussion any way you feel is right!**

# Points to take in mind!

**Diversity!** We strongly encourage and urge you to take in mind the tremendous influence diverse events have on our community. Taking a proactive approach on incorporating speakers/audiences from all backgrounds, identities, LGBTQ+ spectrums, and religions, is a core value of Pride in the Living Room.

**Respect** your audience and their privacy! Whether hosting a virtual or in person event, we recommend getting your participant's consent before taking any pictures, uploading any footage/screenshots or sharing a recording of the event as a whole. We strongly recommend spreading the word about your event, but just be sure to act with professionalism and sensitivity around people's privacy.

**Spread the word.** Want to spread the word about your event? Don't hesitate to create social media ads, event pages, or even contact any local newspapers and community centers that may want to share your event in their newsletters.

**Think outside of the box.** Don't hesitate to change or alter the original Pride in the Living Room format.

We recommend inviting somewhere between **15-30 participants** for in person events, so that you ensure intimate spaces for dialogue. If hosting a virtual event, you may consider hosting a larger audience.

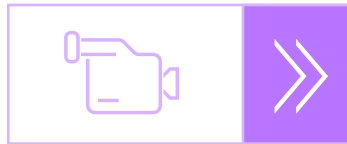






# Useful Links and Tools

Our official website, with a link to a Pride in the Living Room explanatory video that we recommend using at your event



Not sure how to run your event? Need help in finding a speaker? Need assistance in creating and organizing your living room event? Contact The Aguda, and our team will be happy to get in touch and assist!



or by  
email:



Want to use the Pride in the Living Room official logo? Download it from our website!



Need a Pride in the Living Room advertisement graphic for your event? A “ready made” template is available on our website, or ask us via Email





# PRIDE IN THE LIVINGROOM



THANK YOU