

# Good Deeds Day

“Therefore love the foreigner; for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.” Devarim 10:19

“ואהבתם את הגר כי גרים הייתם בארץ מצרים”

During the time of Passover, we take a moment to reflect on the feelings of being a minority in a larger group. As a nation, Jews reflect on how we should be better and help those in need around us, just like our ancestors would have hoped for someone to help them during the tough time of living as slaves in the land of Egypt.

Every year on 14 March we celebrate Good Deeds Day, an International Day of Volunteering.

This day of community service was launched in Israel in 2007 by Israeli businesswoman Shari Arison, through Ruach Tova, a nonprofit organization that connects people who want to volunteer with organisations in need of assistance.

In their first year, the project was held in Israel with 7000 volunteers and 130 different projects participating. This project has grown and in the year 2019, Good Deeds Day had over 3,900,000 volunteers and over 23,000 projects happening in 108 different countries.

In the UK many people volunteer annually on the day or join organisations that take part in the global Good Deeds Day. The UK community focuses on a few subjects in particular:

- 1) Wrap Up national campaign – working to provide people in need across the UK with warm coats over the winter period.
- 2) Brighten Up national campaign – working to improve green spaces in cities for people to enjoy and for wildlife to thrive.
- 3) Hands On Families – family volunteers supporting families in need.
- 4) Be The Change – community and corporate volunteers supporting local projects from food banks and soup kitchens to centers supporting elderly people.



Scan the QR code to take you to a video showing the 2020 International Good Deeds Day celebration and volunteering



## Activity

Divide the students into groups. Each group will get a piece of paper, a pen and 3 markers in the colours red, yellow and green.

Ask the students- what are some things in the school or in your community that you'd like to change, impact or take part in?

After the students write down some of their ideas, ask them to use the coloured markers to colour their ideas:



Red - things they think need to change in their community for the better- add some ideas as to how they can make the change happen.

For example, if they say their neighborhood is not clean enough, they can offer to make a cleaning group and go pick up litter in the mornings.



Yellow - things that might already be happening that they'd like to take part in.

For example- volunteer for the student council, participate in a charity sale.



Green - new ideas they have in order to do good for others.

For example - creating a school-wide charity box, collecting blankets and dry foods for people in need in the wintertime.

\*The Good Deeds Day focuses on the people around us, not necessarily in our community. Ask the students about who else they think they could donate their time to help? How can they help?

- For this discussion, use the arrow questionnaire poster in order to give the students a general idea of volunteering initiatives and see what fits them the most.

