

October 7th Reflections: YU's Commitment to Leadership

October 9, 2024

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Dear Friends,

Each week at YU is filled with meaning as we are educating the leaders of tomorrow, but I have been particularly inspired this week reflecting on how our community has risen to this historic moment in a post October 7th world.



For your interest, please see my reflections featured on ABC (above) on October 7th, as well as on [NY1](#) and [NBC](#).

Upper most in our minds of course is the plight of our hostages still in captivity. YU continues to focus public attention on the effort to bring them home now, and has hosted hostage families and released hostages on our campus to share their stories with our students. See below for the moving feature story about one such visit.



Our students' advocacy efforts have been at the forefront of our community and last week over 1000 students participated in [a powerful and moving commemoration](#) event (see below) in Lamport Auditorium which illustrated our students' resilience and commitment to embodying YU's values in the face of adversity.



Two of our students who addressed the packed assembly represent the spirit of our community. Tomer Meir, a Nova survivor, is on a mission to spread his story of hope and is now a student at YU. Aharon Cohen, an IDF lone soldier, served in active combat after October 7th. He started the semester with us but this week was called back to duty and will be returning to his unit. While on other campuses these students might be shunned and put on the defensive, at YU they are our heroes. Please keep Aharon in your tefilot as we pray for his safety along with all of our brothers and sisters in the IDF.

At this historic moment, it is our responsibility to educate our Jewish students to be strong and proud Jews and our diverse students to be ambassadors of our values.

Thank you, my dear friends, for partnering with us to educate the leaders of tomorrow.

My warmest wishes for a new year ahead filled with happiness, meaning and success.



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