



## In the Window Between Two Worlds: Hanukkah in Public and Private Space

### QUESTIONS FOR CONTEMPLATION & REFLECTION

1. **Rabbi Dani Segal** introduced this webinar in December 2016 with a description of his own context in Jerusalem, referring to the impact of the Syrian civil war on families in Aleppo. Later in the webinar he mentions Aleppo again when he speaks about the need to "take care of what happens outside our home." On Hanukkah in 2020, what does it mean for Jews to "take responsibility for the public sphere?"
2. He speaks about the early Zionists seizing Hanukkah. What did Hanukkah represent for them? What messages did Hanukkah convey at that moment in Jewish history? Are those elements of Hanukkah relevant in the same way today?
3. **Rabbi Segal** mentions that the holiness of the Hanukkah lights derives from the unique Halachic rule that we are not permitted to make use of their illumination, despite the fact that we light them in the hours when the day grows dark. What does it mean to look at the Hanukkah lights for their own sake without using them to illuminate something for our benefit? What might this message of Hanukkah bring to the world at this time?