



FREEDOM
THROUGH
THE AGES

CAN WE MEASURE FREEDOM?

There is no time like our Pesach seder to consider this question.

Each year throughout the generations Jewish people have sat at a Pesach seder to discuss the Exodus from Egypt and the relevance of freedom in their own lives.

“For, not only one arose and tried to destroy us, rather in every generation they try to destroy us and Hashem saves us from their hands.” With these words of the Hagadah ringing in their ears, our ancestors celebrated their ‘freedom’ often in extremely challenging circumstances.

This year the theme of the Tribe Pesach Freedometer is **Freedom Through the Ages** and it highlights a number of key Pesach moments in Jewish history. These cards provide a stimulating trigger for discussion with your teenage children about the nature of freedom through the ages and in their own lives.

Tremendous thanks to everyone at Tribe for their significant contributions to this project, to the many communities taking part, to our generous sponsors and to United Synagogue President Stephen Pack and all the US Trustees, for their ongoing support of Tribe.

Tribe is about creating a future for our community through engaging, educating and inspiring the next generation. I hope that the Tribe Pesach Freedometer helps you to create a thought provoking, meaningful and transformative seder experience.

Chag sameach – Next year in Jerusalem!

Rabbi Eli Levin

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FREE

NOT FREE

THE JEWISH PEOPLE LEAVING EGYPT



AM I FREE?

DISCUSS THESE IDEAS AND SUGGEST YOUR OWN...

FREE	NOT FREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I am no longer a slave to Egyptian oppression.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I am not yet in my homeland and will be trapped in the wilderness.

Have you ever felt free but trapped at the same time... your parents let you go to a party but give you a strict curfew? How free did the Jewish nation feel when they left Egypt?

YOU DECIDE!



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FREE **NOT FREE**

THE FIRST PESACH IN THE NEWLY BUILT SECOND TEMPLE



AM I FREE?

DISCUSS THESE IDEAS AND SUGGEST YOUR OWN...

FREE	NOT FREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• After 70 years of Babylonian exile I am at my Pesach seder in Jerusalem and am overjoyed to see our holy Temple re-established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jerusalem is ruled by the Persians who control the city and the construction of the Temple.

Have you ever felt free but compromised by the culture of where you live... how comfortable are you wearing a kippa, a star of David necklace or a T-shirt with a Hebrew slogan in the street? How free did the Jewish nation feel during the era of the second Temple?

YOU DECIDE!



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FREE

NOT FREE

PESACH DURING THE SPANISH INQUISITION.



AM I FREE?

DISCUSS THESE IDEAS AND SUGGEST YOUR OWN...

FREE	NOT FREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I am secretly continuing to practise my religion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I have to hide who I really am and hold my seder on the wrong night of Pesach to fool the Inquisition and avoid being caught.

Have you ever felt free yet pressured by society... free to make your own choices but concealing who you really are in order to fit in with your friends? How free did the Jewish people feel during the Spanish Inquisition?

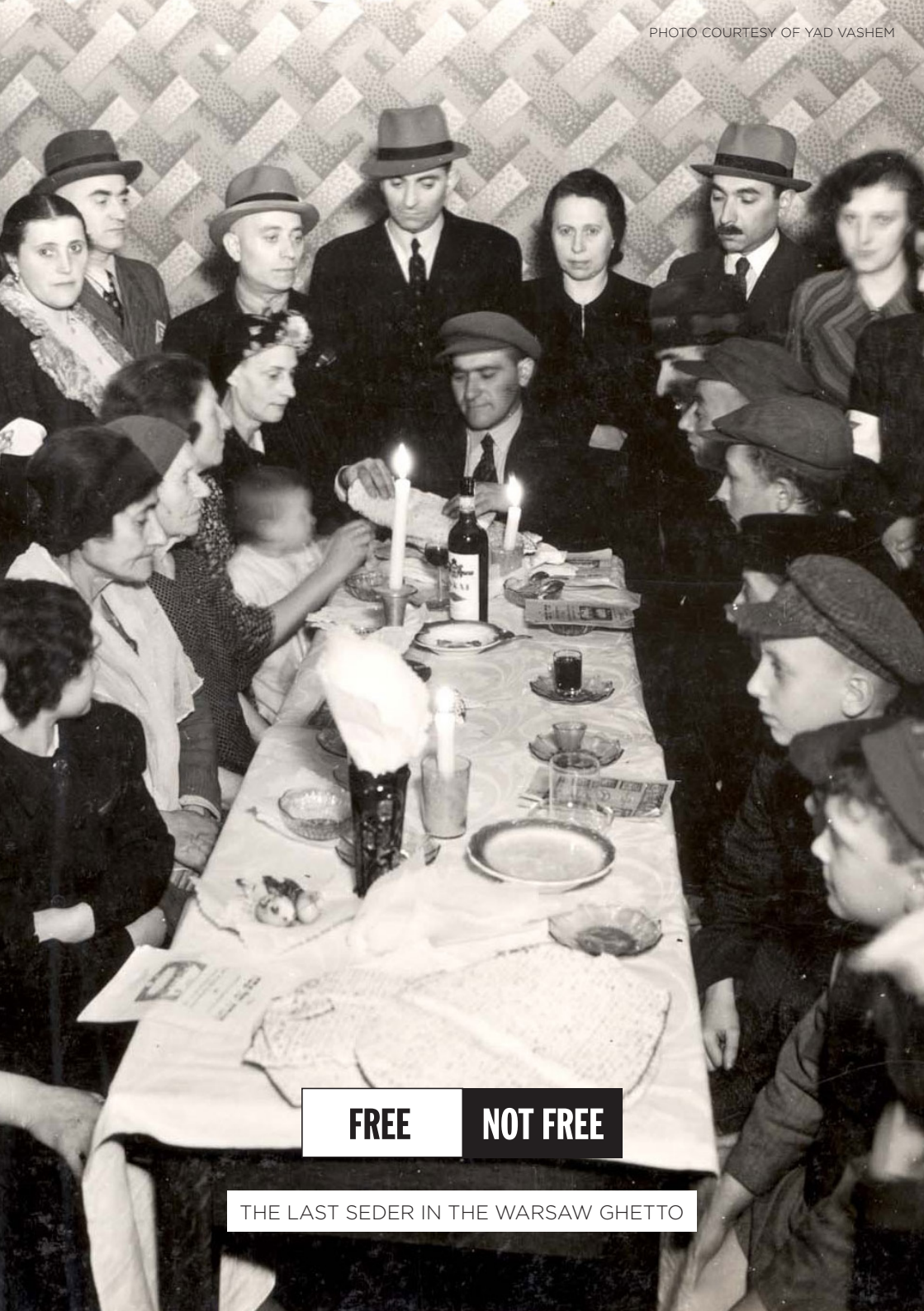
YOU DECIDE!



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FREE

NOT FREE

THE LAST SEDER IN THE WARSAW GHETTO



AM I FREE?

DISCUSS THESE IDEAS AND SUGGEST
YOUR OWN...

FREE	NOT FREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This defiant Pesach seder demonstrates that no-one can imprison my spirit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I am a captive in the ghetto, terrified and surrounded by horrific scenes of families being torn apart.

Have you ever felt free despite facing a challenge in your life... able to overcome a difficulty with the power of your spirit? How free did the Jewish people feel at the last seder in the Warsaw ghetto?

YOU DECIDE!



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FREE

NOT FREE

SEDER IN THE 21ST CENTURY



AM I FREE?

DISCUSS THESE IDEAS AND SUGGEST YOUR OWN...

FREE	NOT FREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">I feel pride in continuing the Jewish tradition of having a Pesach seder.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">I find it difficult to sit at the table for more than 10 minutes without my social media.

Have you ever felt free yet enslaved by technology... you can be 'in touch' all the time but have become addicted to electronic devices? How free do you feel at your Pesach seder in the 21st century?

YOU DECIDE!



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THE SECRET OF SURVIVAL THROUGH THE AGES

וְהִיא שְׁעֵמֶדָה לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וְלָנוּ. שְׁלֹא אֶחָד בְּלִבָּד, עִמָּד עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ.
אֶלָּא שְׁבִכְל דּוֹר וָדוֹר, עוֹמְדִים עָלֵינוּ לְכַלּוֹתֵנוּ. וְהַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא
מְצִילֵנוּ מִיָּדָם

*“And **THIS** is what kept our ancestors and what keeps us surviving. For, not only one arose and tried to destroy us, rather in every generation they try to destroy us, and Hashem saves us from their hands.” (Pesach Hagadah)*

The fight for freedom is as relevant in the world today as ever. Tyrannies, censorship, religious coercion and discussions on the parameters of democracy are at the forefront of the greatest world issues. As Jews we continue to face threats to the freedom of our people and homeland.

These words of the Hagadah highlight the timeless relevance of celebrating every aspect of freedom each year on Pesach. Yet they are somewhat enigmatic. What is the “this” that has enabled the Jewish people to survive? What has kept the Jews going over the centuries despite antisemitism in every generation?

The preceding paragraph in the Hagadah describes God’s promise to Abraham that although his descendants would be enslaved they will be redeemed. This Divine promise is seen as an overarching assurance that at the end of every seemingly infinite dark tunnel there will be light. As such, the word “this” refers back to the promise made to Abraham. The cards in this pack highlight just a few of the many occasions when “this” promise of freedom served as a lifeline.

So too today. By invoking this ancient promise at our Pesach seder we connect with our history, re-examining our relationship with our past and our people. Our belief in the promise of freedom alongside our passion and commitment to our Torah, traditions, identity and Israel, provide us with the means to form our own link in the chain of Jewish continuity. This is the secret of survival that we share with the next generation around our seder table.

**Tribe helps young people
to discover their Jewish
freedom by creating a future
for our community through
engaging, educating and
inspiring the next generation.**

If You'd Like to Help...

Tribe's Pesach Freedometer was made possible by the generosity of its supporters. If you'd like to make a donation to support the work of Tribe you can do so online at **www.theus.org.uk**

If you'd like more information about any of Tribe's activities please visit **www.tribeuk.com** or call **020 8343 5656**



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The US