



SHABBAT EMPTY TABLE "EMPTY CHAIRS – BROKEN HEARTS"

How to set up Empty Shabbat Table Events

The empty table is a pop-up installation meant to raise awareness about the ongoing hostage crisis and the impacted family members. Tables have been set up world in the weeks since the war began, from [Tel Aviv](#) to [Times Square](#) to the [Lincoln Memorial](#).

This page is meant to be helpful guide for community members who want to create their own installment.

Step 1: Find an attractive location in your city. It can be a prominent location with many pedestrians or a location suitable for many community members to congregate.

Step 2: Apply for a permit with your city council or other local authorities as required.

Step 3: Pick a Friday afternoon. Choose a time for your event that allows time for people to get home before Shabbat begins, depending on candle-lighting times in your community.

Step 4: Prepare a flyer (see sample below). Make sure to include an Israeli flag and American flag. Offer space on flyer to sponsors.

Step 5: Invite local newspapers and TV stations to come and cover the event. Remember, the goal is to raise awareness.

Step 6: Plan logistics. You will need: 24 tables set for 10 people each, 240 chairs, 240 plates, 240 glasses, 240 napkins, 10 appropriately sized tablecloths, and you can choose to include candles, challahs, and flower centerpieces. You can also choose to include a children's table, highchairs, small plates, etc. to represent the children taken hostage. There are currently 32 children being held as hostages, including 1 baby and 7 toddlers.

Step 7: Seek sponsorship from catering/events/bakery companies or individual donors.

Step 8: Print photos of all hostages and kids. Place on plates or tape to chairs.
<https://www.bringthemhome-diy.com/>

Step 9: Arrange security. Hire private security and/or advise local law enforcement.

Step 10: Send out invitations. Invite local singers (consider cantors from local synagogues) to sing HaTikva and Shir Lamalot. Invite families of hostages if there is a delegation in your area. Invite "influencers" – these can be prominent members of your Jewish community or local mayors (but keep politics out of it!). Invite local Jewish organizations (JCRCs, etc.).

Step 11: Recommended 30 min program:

Song

Emcee welcome everyone – explain the significance of the event

Family member speak

Family member speak

Influencer speak

Prayer for the hostages (optional)

Song

Optional:

Bring your own professional photographer

Put a barricade/fence around the installment, akin to a museum

Feature the hashtag #BringThemHome

Sample flyer:



