

## WHAT IS LIMMUD?

Quite simply, Limmud is the biggest movement in the world of Jewish learning. Limmud events are held in at least 80 different communities and 30 different countries around the world, attracting 10s of thousands of both Jewish and non-Jewish participants each year. Activists across six continents have discovered that Limmud is the ideal vehicle to reach all types of Jews and reflect the diversity of their own communities, creating cross-communal and cross-generational experiences, accessible to all. The complete list of events can be found at: <http://www.limmudinternational.org/around-the-world>.



Limmud comes from the Hebrew word meaning 'learning' — a name meant to reflect the goals of the organization. Over 30 years ago, a group of enthusiastic souls in the UK had the will and drive to create an event that would develop new ways of learning and provide a forum for anyone constructively engaging with Jewishness — in whatever form that might take. Since then, the UK events and topics have expanded yearly.

For example, to understand the scale of larger Limmud events, the main event in the UK lasts six days with hundreds of programs going on nearly 24 hours per day, attracting over 2500 participants. Another good example is the multi-day event in Turkey that attracts over 1000 persons each year — nearly 10% of the country's Jewish population.

Limmud values can be summarized as:

- **Learning** — Every Jew should be a student and any Jew can be a teacher. Individual participation is welcome and encouraged at Limmud events. Participants come as individuals, not as members of an organization. Even though many of the world's top professors participate in Limmud events, it is hoped that learning will occur in both directions. At Limmud, everyone has something to give.
- **Expanding Jewish horizons** — Participants strive to present and learn about new aspects and interpretations of Judaism, Jewish history, or Jewish culture, in the process strengthening their Jewish identity.  
Although Limmud is fundamentally, and in all aspects, centered on Judaism, this does not mean participants are limited to members of the Jewish community. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend the event.
- **Community and mutual responsibility** — Limmud strives to create a community based on mutual responsibility, and on real interest in different Jewish interpretations.
- **Commitment to respect** — Participants and volunteers are expected to act respectfully towards each other at all times. No participant is more important than any other.

All Limmud events are independent and are organized and implemented by volunteers. No presenters are paid at the event (in some instances presenters' international travel costs are reimbursed). Although costs for the event are low compared to other similar events, all funds must be raised from sponsors, donations, and entrance fees.

In Austria, Limmud events have been held several times over the past 5 years. There is now a dedicated, experienced, volunteer team working so that Limmud events can occur on an annual (or more frequent) basis.

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