

Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign

JNP fully supports the 2005 Palestinian call for Boycott Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel and complicit companies. The call said: 'The Palestinian BDS campaign... aims to pressure Israel to comply with international law and to end international support for Israel's regime of settler colonialism and apartheid.' Like other Western settler-colonial projects, the Zionist one was always a racist dispossession of the indigenous population. That assault was later compounded by unequal rights for Palestinian citizens of Israel, rightly called apartheid. This is a crime under international law, dating from South Africa's apartheid regime.

Israel's settler-colonial project helps explain why the regime systematically violates international law, how Western countries collude with this violation, how their collusion can be effectively opposed, and what political solution could achieve compliance with international law.

We encourage everyone to help expand the BDS campaign in its various forms, to work with groups which do so and to emphasise the basic source of the conflict.

Our cooperation with other groups

We are deeply inspired by the great strides of *Jewish Voice for Peace* in the US. We set up JNP as a UK sister organisation, loosely connected to JVP by exchanging information and initiatives.

We closely cooperate with diverse UK organisations who likewise work for a just, non-violent political solution in Israel-Palestine. We combine forces at public lectures, demonstrations, parliamentary action, pickets, leafleting, conference stalls, letters, appeals to the media, and other activities. Together we are forming a large, potentially influential pressure group which may affect future UK roles towards a peaceful resolution of the conflict.

Facebook: facebook.com/JewishNetworkforPalestine/

Website: <https://jewishnetworkforpalestine.uk>

We are a member-based organisation, which you may join online here:
<https://jewishnetworkforpalestine.uk/styled-7/page-7/>



Jewish Network for Palestine

At present, a single government and its military controls the fate of all those residing between the Mediterranean and the Jordan River, denying full civil rights and access to resources to indigenous Palestinians, in violation of international law. With this in mind, we support the following principles:

- ❖ We oppose racism, hatred, and oppression in all their forms.
- ❖ We advocate for a UK foreign policy based on peace, justice, democracy, human rights and respect for international law.
- ❖ Any just solution in Israel/Palestine must involve full civil rights and equal access to all resources for all its inhabitants regardless of national origin, religion, race, language or gender.
- ❖ We support an end to the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights.
- ❖ To achieve peace and justice, the Palestinian refugee problem must be resolved in accordance with international law and equity. This includes the Palestinian right of return as mandated by UN Resolution 194.



Our Approach to Zionism

Jewish Network for Palestine is guided by a vision of justice, equality and freedom for all people. We unequivocally oppose Zionism because it is counter to those ideals.

We know that opposing Zionism, or even discussing it, can be painful, can strike at the deepest trauma and greatest fears of many of us. Zionism is a nineteenth-century political ideology that emerged in a moment where Jews were defined as irrevocably outside of a Christian Europe. European antisemitism threatened and ended millions of Jewish lives — in pogroms, in exile, and in the Holocaust.

Through study and action, through deep relationship with Palestinians fighting for their own liberation, and through our own understanding of Jewish safety and self-determination, we have come to see that Zionism was a false and failed answer to the desperately real question many of our ancestors faced of how to protect Jewish lives from murderous antisemitism in Europe. While it had many strains historically, the Zionism that took hold and stands today is a settler-colonial movement, establishing an apartheid state where Jews have more rights than others. Our own history teaches us how dangerous this can be.

Palestinian dispossession and occupation are by design. Zionism has meant profound trauma for generations, systematically separating Palestinians from their homes, land, and each other. Zionism, in practice, has resulted in massacres of Palestinian people, ancient villages and olive groves destroyed, families who live just a mile away from each other separated by checkpoints and walls, and children holding onto the keys of the homes from which their grandparents were forcibly exiled.

Because the founding of the state of Israel was based on the idea of a “land without people,” Palestinian existence itself is resistance. We are all the more humbled by the vibrance, resilience, and steadfastness of Palestinian life, culture, and organising, as it is a deep refusal of a political ideology founded on erasure.

In sharing our stories with one another, we see the ways Zionism has also harmed Jewish people. Many of us have learned from Zionism to treat our neighbours with suspicion, to forget the ways Jews built home and community wherever we found ourselves to be. Jewish people have had long and integrated histories in the Arab world and North Africa, living among and sharing community, language and custom with Muslims and Christians for thousands of years.

By creating a racist hierarchy with European Jews at the top, Zionism erased those histories and destroyed those communities and relationships. In Israel, Jewish people of colour — from the Arab world, North Africa, and East Africa — have long been subjected to systemic discrimination and violence by the Israeli government. That hierarchy also creates Jewish spaces where Jews of colour are marginalised, our identities and commitments questioned & interrogated, and our experiences invalidated. It prevents us from seeing each other — fellow Jews and other fellow human beings — in our full humanity.

Zionist interpretations of history taught us that Jewish people are alone, that to remedy the harms of antisemitism we must think of ourselves as always under attack and that we cannot trust others. It teaches us fear, and that the best response to fear is a bigger gun, a taller wall, a more humiliating checkpoint.

Rather than accept the inevitability of occupation and dispossession, we choose a different path. We learn from the anti-Zionist Jews who came before us, and know that as long as Zionism has existed, so has Jewish dissent to it. We choose solidarity. We choose collective liberation. We choose a future where everyone, including Palestinians and Jewish Israelis, can live their lives freely in vibrant, safe, equitable communities, with basic human needs fulfilled.

Towards a single democratic secular state

The political solution for a future just peace in Palestine lies with the communities living there. However, such a solution has been pre-empted by ‘the international community’ (especially US and UK elites) colluding with Israeli-enforced unjust political and military control. Meanwhile they repeat the mantra of a ‘two-state solution’. This allows Israel to expand the settlements and suppress the Palestinian minority in Israel, whose few remaining rights are being constantly undermined. Israel continues to deny rights to over four million Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza. Between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean, there now live 11 million people; many were expelled from their homes by Israeli aggression.

The Israeli settler-colonial apartheid regime has controlled the whole of historic Palestine for the past five decades. Adjusting our political struggle to that reality, we should demand a single democratic secular state of all its citizens, with equal rights for all, including the right of return for the expelled Palestinians and their descendants. This solution would end the oppressive, unjust Zionist regime. Palestinian civil society has increasingly supported this as the only realistic, just solution.