

#BRIDGESNOTBOYCOTTS



THE BOARD
OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS
PROUD TO REPRESENT THE COMMUNITY



PATHWAYS TO PEACE

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST?

Too often, conversations about the Arab-Israeli conflict descend into bitterness and discord. Calls to boycott, divest from or sanction (BDS) Israel or to refer to it as ‘apartheid’ are destructive to the peace process. They entrench Middle East divisions and import conflict onto our campuses.

The label ‘apartheid’ is inaccurate and does nothing to bring peace:

- All citizens of Israel enjoy religious freedom, equality under the law and full civic rights.
- Using the ‘apartheid’ label is a tactic used by the BDS lobby to divide our communities and undermine Israel’s right to exist.
- Misappropriating the ‘apartheid’ label is a grievous insult to all those who suffered under apartheid in South Africa. The situations are completely different.

- 14.2% of Israel’s Parliament is made up of Arab citizens. By comparison, just 6.3% of the UK’s current MPs are from ethnic minority backgrounds.
- Security measures should in no way be conflated with a policy of systematic racism. There is a fundamental difference between security measures and segregation based on religion, sex or race.
- The security fence ensures the safety of all citizens, including Jews and Arabs alike. It has reduced terror attacks by 90%.

We must work together to hasten peace and reconciliation. This means having more conversations, not fewer, and by listening to moderate voices on all sides. In other words: **#bridgesnotboycotts**.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are highlighting the work of four organisations who work in different fields with the same goal – creating a **pathway to peace** through environmentalism, peace-building, and grassroots activism.

BEREAVED FAMILIES FOR PEACE: a grassroots organisation of bereaved Palestinians and Israelis, which promotes reconciliation as an alternative to hatred and revenge. www.theparentscircle.com

ONE VOICE: supports grassroots activists in Israel, Palestine and internationally who are working towards a just and negotiated resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. www.onevoicemovement.org

ECOPEACE: brings together Jordanian, Palestinian, and Israeli environmentalists to protect shared environmental heritage. They seek to advance sustainable regional development and the creation of necessary conditions for lasting peace. www.foeme.org

PERES CENTER FOR PEACE: develops and implements cutting-edge peacebuilding programs in innovation, peace education, medicine, business, and the environment. www.peres-center.org