



## 1:1 Conversation about Israeli-Palestinian Relations

### Overview

This is a self-directed conversation between two people. There are two types of conversations, which both use this same guide.

**Type 1** is between someone who leans toward more concern and support for the Israeli position, and someone who leans toward more concern and support for the Palestinian position.

**Type 2** is between two people who identify as Jewish, who are both concerned for the welfare of Israel and its people. One is mainly supportive of the Israeli government's policies toward Palestinians, including the current conflict, and the other is mainly critical of these policies.

We understand there are nuances, and you will not be asked to defend a position but rather to share your views.

**Duration: 60 minutes**

### Part 1: Opening (8 min. total)

After chatting in person or taking time to make sure the online settings are working, one of you reads the goals and then the other reads the ground rules.

### Goals

- ✓ More understanding of each other's values, concerns, and ideas about U.S. policies for Israeli-Palestinian relations
- ✓ Discovering any areas of commonality in addition to differences

- ✓ Ideas for making conversations on this issue more productive

## Ground Rules

1. We're here to listen, share our views, and understand the other person, not to convince anyone to change their mind or attitude. In other words, this is an open sharing, not a debate to establish who has the right perspective or correct facts.
2. We're here as individuals. Let's not assume the other person holds the views of a larger group or organization—unless they say they do.
3. We're going to do our best to stick to the process and stay within the time limits for each question, which allows equal time for both of us. This is especially important because we may have strong feelings about some parts of the conversation. We recommend that you set a timer.
4. We give each other permission to offer gentle reminders if we veer off from the process, as in "I think right now we're supposed to be doing...."

**Are we both on board with these goals and ground rules, and ready to go?**

### Part 2: Questions about Each Other (30 min. total)

**Question 1: Why did we each decide to participate in this conversation?**

*Each person takes up to 1 minute.*

*Afterwards, back and forth conversation (2 minutes total), Here and elsewhere, feel free to use less time:*

- **Did you see anything in common in why you are participating?**

*Suggestion: alternate who begins responding to each question from here on.*

**Question 2: Share something about yourself such as where you live and for how long, family, and (if you like) a fun question: What was your favorite meal as a child?**

*(Up to 2 minutes each.)*

**Question 3: What life experiences have influenced how you approach the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians?**

*One of you goes first, taking up to 3 minutes. Then the other person goes, taking up to 3 minutes.*

*Afterwards, back and forth conversation, 4 minutes total:*

- **What did you learn about the other person, and did you see anything in common?**

*Please note: Because this conversation focuses on understanding each other's views and finding common ground, it's important to avoid trying to correct each other's factual statements. The important facts are highly contested these days and you are not likely to agree on them in a one-hour conversation. If you want to have a follow up conversation focusing more on sources of factual information, or if you just want to continue the conversation, feel free to do so. In the present conversation, it works best to accept that you see certain facts differently rather than trying to straighten each other out.*

**Question 4: What values and concerns do you bring to your views on Israel-Palestinian relations and the current conflict?**

*One of you goes first, taking up to 4 minutes, then the other person goes. Don't get into detailed solutions right now. Focus on what core values are at stake for you along with your main worries or concerns. It's okay if you repeat some of what you said in answering question 3.*

*Afterwards, back and forth conversation, 4 minutes total:*

- **What did you learn about the other person's values and concerns, and did you see anything in common?**

**Part 3: How to Move Forward** (18 min. total)

**Question 5: How should the U.S. contribute to bringing about a just and lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians?**

*Same process. Take turns for up to 4 minutes apiece.*

*Afterwards, back and forth conversation, 4 minutes total.*

**Question 6: How can Americans who disagree about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict do a better job of managing these difficult conversations?**

*No need to debate or agree on each other's points. See if you have any ideas you both support. (6 minutes.)*

**CHECK OUT** (4 min. total)

**What are we each taking with us from this conversation?**

*2 minutes each person*

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