

Why We Cannot Turn Away: Resources for UU Leaders Engaging on Israel and Palestine

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2023
5:00-6:30PM PT / 8:00-9:30PM ET



Creating a Shared Language

Key Words & Definitions

Creating a Shared Language: Key Words for Tonight

Anti-Semitism

Fear of, hostility to, prejudice towards, or discrimination against Jews and Judaism

Islamophobia

Fear of, hostility to, prejudice towards, or discrimination against Muslims and Islam.

Fascism

A far-right, authoritarian, and ultranationalist political agenda based on racial, ethnic, and/or religious hierarchy, the worship of power and strength, and the grievances of an idealized in-group against at least one and ultimately all other categories of identity. Fascist movements violently oppose democracy, liberalism, socialism, and the left generally.

Creating a Shared Language: Key Words for Tonight

Zionism

A nationalist movement to create (and subsequently defend and maintain) an explicitly Jewish state in the region of the Eastern Mediterranean roughly equivalent to both the region of Palestine and the land of Israel.

Anti-Zionism

Opposition to the creation (and subsequent maintenance of) an explicitly Jewish state in the region of Palestine and the land of Israel as envisioned under Zionism. It is possible to distinguish between criticism of and opposition to a Jewish state and anti-Semitism. It is also the case that there exist explicit anti-Semites who use this term as a general heading for their Jew-hatred.

Creating a Shared Language: Key Words for Tonight

Occupation

The control by force of the territory of one nation or people by another nation or people.

Settler Colonialism

A distinct type of colonialism that functions through the replacement of indigenous populations with a settler society that, over time, develops its own distinctive identity and sovereignty.

Apartheid

The term "apartheid" was originally used to refer to a political system in South Africa which explicitly enforced racial segregation, and the domination and oppression of one racial group by another. It has since been adopted by the international community to condemn and criminalize such systems and practices wherever they occur in the world.

Creating a Shared Language: Key Words for Tonight

Collective Punishment

Sanctions imposed on a ethnic, political, religious, cultural, racial, or social group for acts allegedly perpetrated by a member or members of that group.

War Crimes

Violations of the laws of war, including intentional killing of civilians or targeting of civilian populations for persecution or collective punishment, as well as flouting of proportionality and force in excess of military necessity.

Genocide

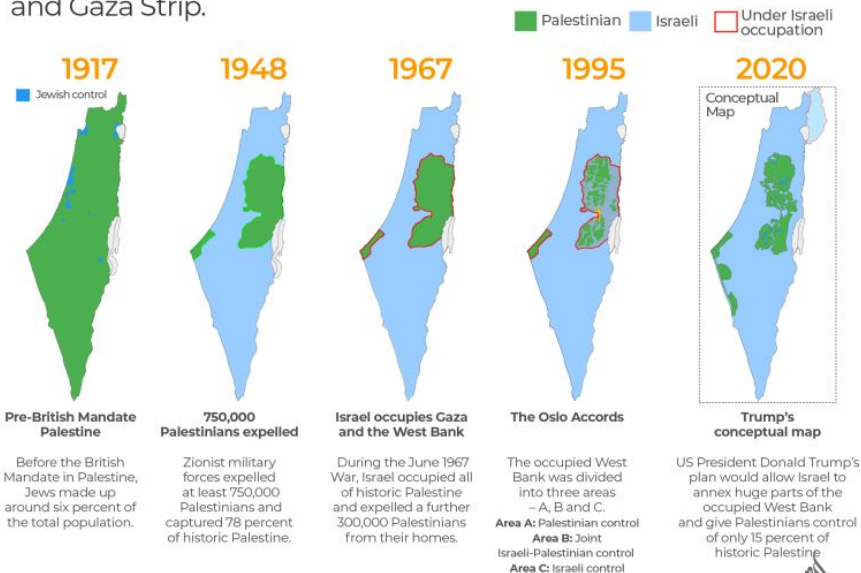
The intentional destruction of any national, racial, ethnic, or religious group, in whole or in part, attempted or successful. Tactics may include murder, but also forced migration or confinement, or efforts to eradicate by force languages, religious or cultural practices, or other essential elements of the group identity.

Approaching the Current Moment: How We Tell the History Matters

ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Palestinians expelled

In 1948, Zionist military forces expelled at least **750,000 Palestinians and captured 78 percent of historic Palestine**. The remaining 22 percent was divided into the West Bank and Gaza Strip.



Source: UN OCHA

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Israel-Palestine escalation

Blockade of the Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip has been under an **Israeli sea and air blockade since 2007**. Since 2008, Israel has waged four wars on the Palestinian territory, killing thousands of people, mostly civilians.



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Approaching the Current Moment: How We Tell the History Matters

Where do we begin our understanding of history?

Whose stories are we listening to? Whose stories have we ignored?

How do we hold space for contradicting narratives that each have roots in trauma?

How do we understand the role of colonization – both explicitly and implicitly – in the way land was & is “given” or claimed?

History of Unitarian Universalist & UUA Engagement

Carey McDonald
UUA Executive Vice President



Palestinian & Israeli Voices: Perspectives & Invitations

Riffat Kassis

Kairos Palestine

Philip Farah

Palestinian Christian Alliance for Peace

Oriel Eisner

Center for Jewish Nonviolence



Maintaining a Trauma-Informed Lens

Erin Obradovich
Artist & Therapist



Islamophobia: Roots & Manifestations

Rayan El-Amine
Lecturer & Organizer



Addressing & Nuancing Anti-Semitism

Jamie Spector
Organizer, JVP



Understanding Shared Humanity Through a Jewish Perspective

Elizabeth Loeb
Community Organizer



Resources for Further Engagement

"Why We Cannot Turn Away:" Accompanying Resource Guide

Why We Cannot Turn Away: Resources for UU Leaders Engaging on Israel and Palestine

RESOURCES ACCOMPANYING
NOVEMBER 6, 2023 WEBINAR



bit.ly/WhyWeCannotTurnAwayToolkit

Resources for Further Engagement

UUA Statement on the Humanitarian Catastrophe in Gaza and Israel

Issued October 17, 2023

Congregational Conversations Template

Available November 13, 2023

Resources for Further Engagement

UUMA Collegial Care Spaces

November 8 & 15

Muslim/Arab and/or with Heritage Connections to Gaza or Palestine

November 7 & 14

Jewish and/or With Heritage Connections to Israel

November 9 & 16

Colleagues with identities other than Muslim, Arab, or Jewish

Resources for Further Engagement

DRUUMM Chaplains

<https://www.druumm.org/membership/chaplains/>

Email: chaplain@druumm.org

UUs for Justice in the Middle East

<https://www.uujme.org/>

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