

14 – 16 MARCH 2015

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL: A NEW PATH FOR ISRAEL- PALESTINE?

A Two-Day International Conference
Birkbeck, University of London



Independent Jewish Voices

In collaboration with the Bruno Kreisky
Forum for International Dialogue

RATIONALE

The failure of the Kerry peace plan, the devastating bombardment of Gaza in July and August 2014, and the annexation by Israel of more land in the West Bank have delivered another setback to both the prospect of Palestinian statehood and an end to the Israel-Palestine conflict. More broadly, 47 years of military occupation have denied the Palestinians inhabiting these territories almost every basic civil and human right. It is time therefore for an objective appraisal of the reality of life for Palestinians, a thorough understanding of the nature of the Israeli-controlled military and civil regime that prevails in the entire Israel-Palestine area, and a recognition that there will be no solution that can secure the viability of a peaceful life for Israelis and Palestinians unless it is grounded in the principles of universal human rights and international law. Shifting attention from discussions focused solely on a one-or-two-state agreement, the fundamental question this Conference seeks to address is how to achieve equal rights for all who live in Palestine-Israel.

In pursuit of these objectives, the conference will also aim to highlight the real impact of occupation and ask how it may be brought to an end; seek to facilitate co-operation between Palestinians and like-minded Israeli Jews; and issue a rallying call for the international community.

AIMS

The aims of the conference are:

- To help shift the debate from externally imposed or brokered state-centric solutions to the building of a new campaign in Palestine-Israel and internationally to achieve full civil and political rights.
- To provide a forum for like-minded Israeli Jews and Palestinians in Israel and the occupied territories, as well as their diasporic supporters, to engage in discussion of this new approach, with the participation of sympathetic politicians, policy-makers, think tank experts, activists and media.
- To provide a new focus of activity for activists outside of Palestine-Israel, which would lead to building new and more powerful and united coalitions within the activist communities and especially among concerned groups and individuals in the Jewish and Palestinian diasporas.

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

INAUGURAL EVENT: WHY NOW IS THE TIME FOR RIGHTS

AVRAHAM BURG AND SAM BAHOUR IN CONVERSATION

SATURDAY, 14 MARCH 2015, DOORS 18:00

VENUE: BIRKBECK UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, MALET ST, ROOM B34

CHAIR: Jacqueline Rose, Professor of Humanities, Birkbeck



CONFERENCE DAY 1, SUNDAY 15 MARCH 201**VENUE: CLORE MANAGEMENT CENTRE (BIRKBECK) B01**

09:00 Registration

09:30 Panel session 1

Mapping the balance of power and control in Israel-Palestine

Speakers: *Avi Shlaim, Emeritus Professor of International Relations, Oxford University*
Taghreed el-Khodary, Journalist and Visiting Scholar with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Mustafa Barghouti, General Secretary, Palestine National Initiative (via video link)

Chair: *Lynne Segal, Professor of Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck*

Tea/Coffee

11:30 Panel session 2

Prioritizing rights: can it supplant failed international peace diplomacy and lead to the end of occupation? What does attaining full civil and political rights for all mean in practice?

Speakers: *Bashir Bashir, political theorist, Van Leer Jerusalem Institute*
Sam Bahour, Palestinian-American business consultant, policy adviser to Palestinian Policy Network Al-Shabaka, and writer

Chair: *Tony Klug, special advisor on the Middle East to the Oxford Research Group*

*** Lunch 12:45 – 13:45***

14:00 Workshops (parallel sessions)

A. Working together: how can a joint Israeli-Palestinian movement for civil and political rights be created and what strategies should it adopt?

Speakers: *Menachem Klein, Middle East historian, Professor in Social Sciences, Bar-Ilan University*
Sam Bahour, Palestinian-American business consultant, policy adviser to Palestinian Policy Network Al-Shabaka, and writer

Chair: *Francesca Klug, Professorial Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Human Rights, LSE*

B. Protecting minority rights & learning from experience

Speakers: *Abu Ahmed Tawahina, chairman of Gaza Dignity, clinical psychologist, human rights and peace activist*
Limor Yehuda, former director, Human Rights in the Occupied Territories dept, Association for Civil Rights in Israel

Chair: *Leila Farsakh, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts*

Tea/Coffee



15:30 Panel session 3

National self-determination and belonging: reconciling competing nationalisms

Speakers: Moshe Behar, Middle East historian, University of Manchester
 Yossi Rapoport, Islamic historian, Queen Mary, University of London
 Leila Farsakh, Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Massachusetts

Chair: Gertraud Auer Borea d' Olmo, Director, Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue

17:00 Panel session 4

International pressure to achieve change: International law, diplomatic pressure, BDS, new media and diasporas

Speakers: Avraham Burg, author, MK, Former Speaker of the Knesset, former Chairman of the Jewish Agency
 Salma Karmi-Ayyoub, criminal barrister, former litigator with Al-Haq, Ramallah-based human rights NGO
 John Strawson, colonial legal historian, co-director, Centre on Human Rights in Conflict, University of East London

Chair: Sir Geoffrey Bindman QC, Visiting Professor of law at UCL and London South Bank University

End of first day (18:00)

CONFERENCE DAY 2, MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015 FROM 11 AM**VENUE: BIRKBECK UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, MALET ST, ROOM B34**

11:00 Panel session 5

What role for the EU?

Speakers: Michelle Pace, Professor (MSO) with Special Responsibilities in EU-Middle East Relations, Roskilde University
 Leila Shahid, Ambassador of Palestine to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg
 Alon Liel, former Director General, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Israel (via video link)

Chair: Avi Shlaim, Emeritus Professor of International Relations, Oxford University

*** Lunch 12:30 – 13:30 ***



13:30 Panel session 6

What state-based constitutional structures might most successfully enshrine and protect equal rights for all?

Speakers: Brenna Bhandar, Senior Lecturer, SOAS School of Law

Nimer Sultany, Lecturer in Public Law and constitutional theorist, SOAS

Chair: Limor Yehuda, former director, Human Rights in the Occupied Territories dept, Association for Civil Rights in Israel

15:00 Concluding remarks with Giles Fraser, former Canon Chancellor of St Paul's Cathedral and columnist, Lynne Segal, Professor of Psychosocial Studies, Birkbeck and Jacqueline Rose, Professor of Humanities, Birkbeck

End of Conference (16:00)

Wifi is available for the duration of the event by signing up to Birkbeck WAM as a guest user

Username: equalrights

Password: equalrights187

Event hashtags include:

#equalrightsisraelpalestine

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