



Zionism is Racism Motion:

Why it Matters



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Zionism is Racism Motion: Why it Matters

Foreword

1. Our existence as Palestinians have been defined by witnessing decades of relentless violence, seizure of land, and a pervasive international silence that normalises our suffering. This longstanding reality has now culminated in another catastrophic chapter. Over the past three years, Palestinians like myself have watched, alongside the world, a live-streamed genocide in Gaza, now expanding across the West Bank and beyond. The bombardment has been indiscriminate, the civilian death toll shocking, and the destruction of Palestinian society – its foundations, homes, hospitals, universities – systematic.
2. This physical erasure is compounded by a political strategy that seeks to silence dissent by conflating criticism of Israel with ‘antisemitism’, a bitter irony that weaponises Jewish historical trauma – which traces its origins to Europe – against us. As Palestinians, we did not choose our occupiers but have paid a devastating price for a persecution we were not part of. But this is not merely our story: it is a test of the world’s commitment to universal justice. It has long failed in this commitment when it comes to Palestine.
3. By arming, investing in, and diplomatically shielding an apartheid State committing genocide, governments actively undermine their professed democratic ideals. Their participation in the horror in Palestine reveals a stark hypocrisy and a foreign policy rooted in colonial and authoritarian principles, not in human rights, freedom and equality.
4. This is not just a Palestinian or even a regional issue. The ongoing atrocities and the profound impunity with which they are committed establish a perilous global

precedent signalling that such crimes may be replicated elsewhere. International law and the international order are being tested, and ripped apart, by what is happening in Palestine.

5. In Britain, many of us have been politically abandoned by a Labour leadership committed to pro-Israel policies which have targeted both Palestinians and our supporters. The British State, under Labour's control, is deploying authoritarian tactics of repression, suppressing peaceful protesters and designating non-violent direct action groups like Palestine Action as 'terrorists', imprisoning supporters without bail and refusing them access to adequate support. This repression coincides with cuts to public services, welfare and the NHS, alongside deportations, anti-immigrant rhetoric and the demonisation of Muslims. These are calculated efforts to divide our communities and impose an austerity so severe that we are left too torn, hungry, sick and afraid to resist.
6. We must directly confront the ideology that normalises our suffering, the racism of Zionism and its narrative, which inverts victim and oppressor. Palestinians and their allies – Muslim, Christian, Jewish and those without faith alike – drafted the motion "Zionism is Racism", to be debated and voted on at the Green Party Conference and to be shared with other organisations, trade unions and political parties.
7. We proposed this motion unsure of its reception, but certain of the necessity. We know if we do not act now, by the time the rest of the world has finished playing catch up with the horror inflicted upon our people, there may be nothing left. Irrespective of potential pushback, nothing can be done to us that is worse than witnessing the slaughter of our loved ones and our systematic

Zionism is Racism Motion at Green Party Conference

erasure. To stand by and do nothing as this accelerates is worse than the prospect of death itself. What is coming to the rest of the world is foreshadowed by what is happening in Palestine now. We must bring an end to this racism and the monstrous State that has been built upon it. Beyond Palestine and our region, this is a threat to peace and freedom everywhere.

8. We are heartened to report that our motion has been received with overwhelming support. This is a significant step. We will continue to hope, resist and rise for liberation.

Free Palestine, from the river to the sea!

Lubna Speitan

(Lead author of motion Zionism is Racism)

Zionism is Racism Motion at Green Party Conference

Introduction

1. This motion invites formal acknowledgement that Zionism is Racism. The motion builds on existing motions and resolutions passed by the Green Party, which affirm **'Israel is an apartheid state committing genocide'**; call for the 'IDF to be proscribed as a terrorist organisation'; urge **'the UK formally apologise to the people of Palestine for the Balfour Declaration'**, and demand the immediate end to Israel's unlawful occupation and war crimes. However, none of these positions identifies the underlying racist ideology which has and continues to inspire the dehumanisation, displacement, dispossession, disenfranchisement and destruction of Palestinians by the apartheid State of Israel. The motion seeks to rectify that failure.
2. In addition, the motion recognises the legitimacy of some of the central issues within the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, including that: (a) anti-Zionism is categorically different from antisemitism and the two should never be conflated; (b) Zionism is a racist settler-colonial ideology; (c) the Palestinian people's right to self-determination includes the right to resistance and liberation from Israeli occupation, domination and subjugation; (d) seeking to end that Israeli occupation, domination and subjugation non-violently requires heeding the call from Palestinian civil society to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against the apartheid State of Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in that country's apartheid era; and (e) all Palestinian prisoners of conscience (including Marwan Barghouti) should be released.
3. This booklet explains these issues, answers common questions, and refers those interested to further sources of information on relevant topics.

Anti-Zionism is Not Antisemitism

4. Opposition to the political ideology and State system of Zionism must not be conflated with antisemitism, as reflected in the Green Party's Anti-Racism Policy. Jewish identity is not synonymous with any nationalist project. Zionism is a political ideology not a religion or an ethnic group. Supporting Palestinian liberation and a single democratic Palestinian state with equal rights for all its inhabitants is a moral and political stance, not an act of religious or ethnic discrimination. Conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism obscures real daily structural racism and oppression against Palestinians and undermines efforts to combat antisemitism.

“I am in full agreement with the Motion being proposed and as a child survivor of WW2 Holocaust and a Jew believe that Zionism both as an ideology and practice is harmful and has no legitimacy and must be rejected.”

Stephen Kapos

Zionism is a Racist and Settler-Colonial Ideology and Practice

5. On 29 November 2022, Al-Haq – an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah – launched its report titled: 'Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism'. The report was endorsed by Addameer (a prisoner support and human rights association); Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (both independent, non-partisan, non-governmental human rights organisations based in the Gaza Strip); the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (whose members are Palestinian non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations); the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre (formerly the Quaker Service Information and Legal Aid Center); the Community Action Center at Al-Quds University (non-profit community rights-based organisation in the Old City of Jerusalem); and the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH).
6. In other words, the analysis of the report (**Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism**) represents the understanding of a broad coalition of Palestinian human rights organisations and cannot be ignored.
7. The report explains how an understanding of Zionist settler colonialism is necessary for a comprehensive articulation of Israel's apartheid regime and its root causes. The roots of the ideology lie in the settler colonisation of Palestine from the 19th century onward:

Zionism emerged within the context of European imperial expansion in the 19th century and was modelled on racial conceptions of human sciences and the nation-state. In its quest for territorial conquest, Zionism was founded as a settler colonial movement whose ideological commitments were inherently racial. Despite the ethnic diversity of Judaism's adherents through the millennia, the dual factors of European Christian persecution of Jews and the rise of racial theories in the 19th century sought to attribute adherence to Judaism with a single, distinct racial group. In this historical context, the late 19th century Zionist movement embraced this view of persons of Jewish faith as a distinct 'race,' enshrining it in the charters of Zionist institutions, including those of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) in 1897, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) in 1901, and the Jewish Agency (JA) established in 1921. These institutions apply this racialised distinction as a matter of unique Jewish privilege and supremacy over all others, exercised through the exclusive entitlement to 'Jewish nationality,' which is superior to mere citizens in Israeli law and policy.

8. The current Israeli apartheid regime is sustained through institutionalised impunity and by weakening the capacity of the indigenous Palestinian people and institutions to challenge the myriad human rights violations and international crimes maintaining the regime. As the report from Al-Haq explains, the Israeli regime employs policies of visible segregation and material discrimination against Palestinians in the exercise of their individual and collective rights. These underlying policies seek to dominate and oppress the Palestinian people. Spatial separation, isolation, suppression, and concentration of

Palestinian communities, on either side of the Green Line, sustain the pattern of illegal population transfer and demographic manipulation inherent to the Zionist settler colonial project.

9. Al-Haq's report makes it clear that the international discourse on Palestine has obfuscated the root causes of the Israeli regime's prolonged, widespread, systematic human rights violations, and extreme material discrimination:

The long-prevailing 'conflict' paradigm has entrenched the fragmentation of the Palestinian people and international complicity in perpetuating Palestinian oppression. Describing the situation reductively as a 'conflict' between two parties that needs to be resolved by the parties is a misleading approach. Rather, the belligerent occupation is taking place in the context of ongoing Zionist settler colonisation and apartheid, of which it operates as a tool. Failure by third states to recognise this key distinction disregards applicable peremptory norms of general international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the cardinal prohibition of the use of force. It further disregards third-party responsibility to refrain from assisting in the maintenance of the unlawful situation and the positive duty of states to cooperate to bring it to an end.

10. The motion Zionism is Racism recognises and seeks to reverse the damaging role which Britain has played in obfuscating the situation in Palestine. It does so by explicitly identifying Zionism as the racist settler-colonial ideology animating the Israeli State.

Right to Self-Determination includes the Right to Choose a Strategy of Resistance

11. In pursuit of the right to self-determination, the Palestinian people's use of force to resist foreign oppression and to complete the establishment of an independent State is an inalienable right well founded in international law. Various peoples freed themselves from colonial rule and foreign oppression to realise independent statehood after World War II. Their practices serve as convincing evidence for this right to resist under international law, and its viability as a national liberation strategy. Indeed, numerous UN General Assembly resolutions recognise the legitimacy of struggling by all available means, including armed struggle, by peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation to realise the right to self-determination.
12. Article 2(4) of the UN Charter prohibits the use of force not only against the territorial integrity or political independence of States, but also in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. One of these purposes is to **'develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples'**. This is an international obligation for all States, including the United Kingdom and Israel. In turn, it is unlawful to use armed force or repressive measures, with a view to supporting or maintaining colonial domination, against peoples striving to throw off the colonial yoke in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

13. The illegality of the use of force against such peoples derives from the fact that such action prevents the exercise of a legitimate right deriving from the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; from the fact that the General Assembly has repeatedly proclaimed that the use of force to deprive dependent peoples of their inalienable rights constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples; and from the United Nations practice of opposing the idea that the struggle of colonial peoples for their liberation – the most important phenomenon of the modern age – should be regarded as a violation of the prohibition of the use of force.
14. The provisions of the Charter solemnly recognise the right of oppressed colonial peoples to defend themselves against foreign oppression. The use of force by peoples under colonial domination is not a derogation from the principle of non-use of force in Article 2(4) of the Charter, if such force is provoked by coercive actions committed by colonial powers in order to prevent colonial peoples from exercising their right to self-determination. The right of self-defence of peoples under colonial domination is the counterpart of the right of peoples to defend their national identity against acts of force or coercion which leave them no alternative. The Palestinian people have for decades been subject to relentless Israeli coercive actions seeking to prevent them from exercising their right to self-determination. In turn, their resort to the use of force – in accordance with the norms set by international humanitarian law – is lawful, and the motion simply recognises that fact.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

15. On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice (“ICJ”) delivered its Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in and around East Jerusalem. The ICJ unequivocally held that the wall – built on occupied Palestinian land – was illegal. The Advisory Opinion was yet another recognition of the illegality of the apartheid State of Israel’s colonial and discriminatory policies, to be added to the hundreds of UN resolutions which had condemned such policies as illegal and called for immediate and effective remedies.
16. However, all forms of international intervention and peace-making until then had failed to convince or force Israel to comply with international law, to respect fundamental human rights, and to end its occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people. In response, Palestinian civil society recognised that people of conscience in the international community have historically shouldered the moral responsibility to fight injustice, as exemplified in the struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa.
17. Inspired by that struggle against apartheid and in the spirit of international solidarity, moral consistency and resistance to injustice and oppression, Palestinian civil society called upon international civil society and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. They appealed to us to pressure our respective States to impose embargoes and sanctions against the

Zionism is Racism Motion at Green Party Conference

apartheid State of Israel. They also invited conscientious Israelis to support their call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace.

18. This motion heeds that call.

“Brighton & Hove PSC has for many years argued that it is impossible to understand the Israeli state and its ongoing genocidal ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people, without examining Zionism’s role as the racist, supremacist ideology underpinning it.

At our 2024 AGM, members voted to codify this into our constitution. BHPSC, now an explicitly Anti-Zionist organisation, is campaigning to dismantle Zionism, both in Palestine/Israel and closer to home.

We strongly endorse the Zionism is Racism motion. If adopted by the Green Party, it will mark a major shift in U.K. politics - and the beginning of the end of the international impunity Israel has enjoyed for almost 80 years.”

**Brighton & Hove Palestine
Solidarity Campaign**

All Palestinian Prisoners of Conscience should be Released

19. The Palestinian prisoners' movement is central to the Palestinian liberation struggle. The prisoners held in Israeli jails – often for lengthy sentences imposed by military courts or under arbitrary administrative detention without charge or trial – are widely regarded as symbols of principled commitment to Palestinian freedom. Moreover, beyond their political significance, the Palestinian prisoners' issue is one that touches many Palestinians intimately. Approximately 40% of Palestinian men in the West Bank and Jerusalem have spent some time in Israeli jails. Prior to 2005, equal percentages could be found in Gaza.
20. Nearly every Palestinian family has experience of imprisonment by Israeli forces, whether that is detention and interrogation or long-term incarceration. If an immediate family member has not been imprisoned, it is rare to find Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza, and to some extent Palestinian citizens of Israel, who have not seen an uncle, aunt or cousin detained behind Israeli bars. Indeed, the release of prisoners is a consensus position among Palestinians with strong support from all sectors of society.
21. The motion seeks to recognise the significance of the Palestinian prisoners' movement to the struggle.

Responses to concerns raised regarding the Zionism is Racism motion

“Zionism can mean many different things.”

22. Even if this were true, the **opening paragraph** of the motion (a) explicitly defines Zionism, (b) emphasises what the real, material manifestations of Zionism have and continued to be for the non-Jewish indigenous population of Palestine, and (c) overtly places the ideology of Zionism within a tradition of other European settler-colonial systems of domination and oppression:

Zionism is a political ideology which called for the creation – and, now it exists, the continuity – of an ethnonationalist Jewish State in historic Palestine to the exclusion and/or domination of the non-Jewish population. The real, material manifestation of Zionism has been the historic and ongoing dehumanisation, displacement, dispossession, disenfranchisement and destruction of Palestinians. This is based upon European settler-colonial systems of domination and oppression, which has also created racial hierarchies between Jews of different ethnicities in Palestine.

23. In other words, those who subscribe to an ideology which does not call for the continuation of an ethnonationalist Jewish State in historic Palestine to the exclusion and/or domination of the non-Jewish population – and oppose such a self-evidentially racist creed – should have no difficulty with this motion. The motion links the definition of Zionism with the real, material manifestations in

Palestine. Whether some Zionists might believe their ideology does not call for the **‘ongoing dehumanisation, displacement, dispossession, disenfranchisement and destruction of Palestinians’** is irrelevant: that is what Zionism in Palestine has produced, and continues to produce before our very own eyes.

24. In effect, those pushing for their own evidence-free definition of Zionism want to deny the Palestinians the right to define their own oppression and erasure – in terms consistent with both the historical record and their lived reality – because it would offend Jews who believe that a different Zionist Project in Palestine is somehow possible.
25. Indeed, some have claimed that *‘for many Jewish people Zionism is less a well-defined ideology, and more of a sense that Jews should have a place that they call home, where they are no longer a persecuted minority, as they have been for millennia.’ In turn, they suggest that ‘regardless of how Zionism has played out in the real world ... an unbridled attack on Zionism would ... come across as an attack at that very basic right of aspiring to lead a safe and secure life.’*
26. It is hard to know whether the sleight of hand here is deliberate or unintentional but it deftly illustrates the problem of (liberal) Zionism. This claim equates a place that “Jews call home” with a place where “Jews are no longer a persecuted minority.” Of course, every antiracist believes that Jews should have a place they can call home, where they are not persecuted, and where they can lead a safe and secure life. And that place should be wherever they are, whether that be in Britain or Palestine or elsewhere.

27. But that is a categorically different question from whether Jews – and indeed any other ethnicity and/or religious community – can call a place home **only** if they are not an ethnic or religious **minority** in that place. This implies that only ethnic and religious majorities in any given place can call that place their home and, it follows, in order for Jews to call Palestine their home, they must be the ethnic or religious majority. As the motion explains, this is exactly the problem with Zionism: it seeks *‘an ethnonationalist Jewish State in historic Palestine to the exclusion and/or domination of the non-Jewish population’*. The objective of Zionism is for Jews to be the only and/or dominant population in Palestine, which by necessity results in either the exclusion or domination of the non-Jewish population. This is privileging Jews and their “sense of a place to call home” to the exclusion of others.
28. In contrast, the motion calls for the establishment of a single, democratic Palestinian State with equal rights for all, i.e. for Jews and others alike. This means that neither Jew nor non-Jews will dominate or persecute the other and that both can call Palestine their home. Why would anyone object to replacing an apartheid State with a democratic State with equal rights for all?

“Attacks on Jewish Identity – the Practical Implications for Jews”

29. The fearmongering of equating Jewish identity with Zionism is unacceptable. The motion makes it clear that the ideology calling for the continuation of an **‘ethnonationalist Jewish State in historic Palestine to the exclusion and/or domination of the non-Jewish population’** should be treated as other forms of racism.

It is difficult to understand how any antiracist can object to this position. Would an ethnonationalist State for a different ethnicity to the exclusion of another anywhere else be acceptable? Would calling for Britain to be for Whites only, or for Christians only, ever be acceptable within any respectable antiracist space? To ask the question is to answer it.

30. Moreover, as the motion makes clear, it is not the religious or ethnic background of those who may identify as Zionists that is in issue. The motion recalls that **‘[n]ot all Jews are Zionists and not all Zionists are Jews.’** This is an obvious (and necessary) antiracist position. Attempts to dilute this clarity seek to conflate association with or involvement in an institution with actively promoting a specific political ideology which that institution may support. Suggesting that because most Jewish institutions in Britain have ‘some sort of connection to Zionism’, that Jews involved in those institutions are at risk of expulsion from organisations which adopt the motion, is nonsense.
31. Take, for example, the Green Party, whose Disciplinary Committee considers complaints against members only on grounds that they (a) contravened the Constitution of the Party or (b) breached the Code of Conduct of the Party. Neither the Constitution nor the Code of Conduct impose an obligation on members to avoid involvement or membership in institutions which do not share its philosophical basis or policy positions. And, of course, if it did, this would be ludicrous. The Green Party is not a cult. It is inevitable that its members will get involved in other institutions in their communities and that those will likely differ in outlook and politics from the Party.

32. Instead, the Green Party Code of Conduct requires respect for the freedom of thought, conscience and belief of members, and allows for members to dissent from official policy. The Code requires members to be tolerant, considerate, respectful and civil, and it prohibits discriminatory, oppressive and abusive behaviour. It follows that disagreement with the motion from its detractors – which is respectful and neither discriminatory nor oppressive – should not be a problem.

“Public discourse conflates Jews and Zionists”

33. Another objection raised in relation to the motion is that passing the motion would give the impression that the respective organisation – by declaring itself anti-Zionist – has somehow declared itself anti-Jewish. This is obviously wrong. The reasoning for such a suggestion relies explicitly on the supposed failure of the **‘wider Jewish community, as well as the media’** to understand the ‘nuance’ of distinguishing between Jews and Zionists. This is an extraordinary position to take and seems to normalise the antisemitic trope that all Jews are Zionists.
34. The only coherent antiracist position is to firmly reject any conflation between Judaism and Jews, on the one hand, and Zionism and supporters of the genocidal apartheid State of Israel, on the other hand. The failure of many institutions – and politicians in other parties in Britain – to do so is deeply irresponsible. This conflation should be condemned, not normalised, and the motion seeks to do so.
35. The corollary is that by drawing a stark dividing line, the motion removes the cloak of respectability that for too long has sheltered Zionism from legitimate criticism.

Supporters of Zionism have cynically sought to conflate their political ideology with Judaism and Jewish people. Indeed, this will strengthen the protection of Jews against antisemitism, whilst preventing those who support the continuation of an ethnonationalist Jewish State in Palestine from hiding behind a supposed love of Judaism and Jewish people.

**“It is time to end our complicity
with genocide and apartheid”**

Greta Thunberg

**“My full support from Brazil to the
initiative of breaking all ties with
Zionism”**

Thiago Ávila

Further Questions and Answers about the Zionism is Racism Motion

Are those behind the motion aiming for a single Palestinian state that includes everyone equally, no matter their ethnicity, culture, or religion? And could Jews already living there be part of that state, as long as they're able to commit to a justice and reparations process led by and for Palestinians?

36. Yes! This is and has always been the case. Both the 'One Democratic State Campaign' and the 'One Democratic State Initiative' – which have campaigned for more than two decades – believe in a single democratic State in the whole of Palestine, for Muslims, Jews, Christians and people of no faith. This was the situation in 1947, when the Arab States, the Palestinians and the Latin American States put forward a UN Resolution asking exactly that and opposing the partition of Palestine. It was the Zionist movement who opposed this and still do. Only racists, genocidaires and supporters of apartheid can argue (and kill) for the continuation of Zionism, and against democracy, equality and justice for all Palestinians. Why are these aims wrong when demanded by the Palestinians? We are in full support of such aims and objectives.

Can the people who drafted this motion really say it speaks for all Palestinians especially when it is committed to backing just one solution, a single state?

37. It is not possible to hold free and fair elections in Palestine under conditions of illegal occupation, apartheid and genocide. It follows that claims about what ‘the Palestinians’ – a people with a multitude of politics – want is inherently uncertain. However, despite an international consensus for over two decades in support of the Oslo formula of ‘two States for two people’ – and an explicit commitment by the PLO to that end – the reality on the ground has never been further from establishing that ‘solution’. Indeed, the explicit purpose of continued Zionist colonisation of Palestinian land in Jerusalem and on the West Bank of the Jordan River has been to prevent any (sovereign) Palestinian State from emerging. In turn, those who are still touting the so-called ‘two State solution’ either disqualify themselves by their ignorance or their bad-faith.
38. Those who support this motion believe in democracy, freedom and equality. Our priorities are clear: decolonise Palestine, bring an end to the Zionist Project, and assist in any way we can to support the establishment of a single democratic Palestinian State for all inhabitants of Palestine. We have no time to waste on imperial solutions. No one credibly accepted the ‘solution’ of two States in South Africa, nor two States in the north of Ireland, nor two States in Algeria. Those who wish to continue to obfuscate the real political choices may organise themselves separately.

The Motion: Zionism is Racism

The Motion: Zionism is Racism

Green Party Motion A3

Proposer: Lubna Speitan

Title: Zionism is Racism

Type: E Motion (Policy)

ZIONISM IS RACISM

SYNOPSIS:

This motion defines Zionism, recognises its continued harm to Palestinians, and seeks to clarify that the Green Party is opposed to Zionism. It further affirms the right to self-determination and liberation of the Palestinian people and supports the establishment of a single democratic Palestinian State in all of historic Palestine.

MOTION TEXT:

Zionism is a political ideology which called for the creation – and, now it exists, the continuity – of an ethnonationalist Jewish State in historic Palestine to the exclusion and/or domination of the non-Jewish population. The real, material manifestation of Zionism has been the historic and ongoing dehumanisation, displacement, dispossession, disenfranchisement and destruction of Palestinians. This is based upon European settler-colonial systems of domination and oppression, which has also created racial hierarchies between Jews of different ethnicities in Palestine.

The practice of Zionist ideology, promoting ethnonationalism, privileges one ethnic group on the basis of the subjugation of others. Zionism is Israel's foundational ideology.

The Motion: Zionism is Racism

Zionism has created and seeks to maintain – and where possible – expand, an apartheid regime between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, designed to cement the supremacy of one group, Jews, over another, Palestinians. As such, Zionism is racist.

This motion is aimed at the political ideology and practice of Zionism, as defined, and not at the religious or ethnic background of those who may identify as Zionists. **Not all Jews are Zionists and not all Zionists are Jews.**

Rejecting Zionism and supporting the liberation of the Palestinian people is not discriminatory against Jewish people. Nor is it discriminatory to support the establishment of a single democratic Palestinian State between the Jordan river and the Mediterranean Sea with equal rights for all. Zionism is fundamentally incompatible with anti-racist principles, equality and justice.

CONFERENCE RESOLVES THAT:

1. The Green Party declares itself to be an anti-Zionist party.
2. The Green Party rejects attempts to normalise the racist subjugation and oppression of Palestinians; to equate anti-Zionism with antisemitism; to deny or minimise Palestinian human rights; to create hierarchies of racism; and to normalise or attempt to justify apartheid, ethnic cleansing or genocide. We affirm that definitions of anti-Jewish discrimination should not equate Jewish identity with Zionist ideology or political practice. As with any ethnicity or faith group, no single political ideology should be ascribed to an entire people.

- 3. Following from Motion E05, which affirmed that Israel is an apartheid State committing genocide, and Motion E07 supporting reparations and accountability, the Green Party supports the establishment of a single democratic Palestinian State in all of historic Palestine with Jerusalem as its capital, equal rights for all, and the right of return for Palestinians and their descendants.**
- 4. The Green Party affirms the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination, including the right of the Palestinian people to resistance and liberation from Israeli occupation, domination and subjugation, and acknowledges that the struggle to achieve that liberation by all available means under international law is legitimate.**
- 5. The Green Party heeds the call from Palestinian civil society to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era, and calls upon the United Kingdom Government to impose full embargoes and sanctions against Israel.**
- 6. The Green Party calls for the release of all Palestinian prisoners of conscience (including Marwan Barghouti), the end of the use of administrative detention of Palestinians by Israel, and the treatment of Palestinian combatants in accordance with international humanitarian law, including in particular those provisions dealing with prisoners of war in the First Additional Protocol of the 1977 amendments to the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949 relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts.**
- 7. The Green Party calls for the removal of Palestine Action from the list of proscribed organisations**

in Schedule 2 to the Terrorism Act 2000 (i.e. de-proscription).

- 8. The Green Party calls for the release of all prisoners detained for non-violent direct action in support of Palestinian rights and the end of the genocide, apartheid and the illegal occupation of Palestine and supports the demands of the Prisoners for Palestine**

ACTIONS FOR THE PARTY TO TAKE:

The Green Party adopts the following action points:

1. This motion will be incorporated into the Green Party's Record of Policy Statements as appropriate and promoted in accordance with our rules and procedures.
2. Zionism, as defined above, will be treated as any other form of racism, and this motion will be implemented by the Anti-Racism Policy Working Group as appropriate and in accordance with its ordinary practice.
3. The positions on international policy within this motion will be implemented by the International Policy Working Group as appropriate and in accordance with its ordinary practice.

We affirm our commitment to explicitly opposing Zionism in our internal and external communications going forward.

The UK and Welsh Parliaments, the London and Mayoral Assemblies, and Local Councils and Local Authorities must exercise their authority to end the genocide, occupation and apartheid. Elected Green representatives will continue to put pressure on all and any relevant bodies to achieve these goals. This motion ensures our positions comply with

international law, equity, and our commitment to justice and human rights.

MPs, London and Mayoral Assembly Members, Councillors, and prospective Members of the Senedd should take measures at their respective chambers to create local, sub-national, and national action for Palestine, ending any investments in Israel; demanding peace and accountability, and an end to the egregious violations of international humanitarian law and the genocide conventions, and an immediate move towards accountability, reparations, and justice for the Palestinian people.

Zionism is Racism: Briefing Paper

Zionism is Racism: Briefing Paper

Introduction

1. This motion formally acknowledges that Zionism is Racism. Drafted and developed by Palestinian members, in consultation with Global Majority Greens, Muslim Greens, Jewish Greens, Greens Organise, Young Greens, Vegan Greens, Policy, LGBTIQ+ Greens, Trans Greens, external groups, academics, historians and legal experts. This work will ensure anti-racism, equity, and decolonial principles are applied as required by the Anti-Racism Policy Platform. External supporting campaign groups also include Greenwich Palestine Alliance (GPA), Trade Unionists for Palestine (TUP), International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network (IJAN), Jewish Network for Peace (JNP), Palestine Pulse, Cambridge PSC, Cambridge Artists for Palestine.
2. Both the motion (Zionism is Racism) and the briefing paper have principally been drafted by Palestinians, who possess direct lived experience of Zionist settler-colonialism, apartheid, and racial domination. This knowledge is central to understanding structural oppression as per the Green Party's Anti-Racism Policy. Their work has been supported by input from allied voices, including from the Jewish, Christian, Muslim, and atheist communities.
3. The motion builds on existing Green Party motions and resolutions, which affirm **'Israel is an apartheid state committing genocide'** (Motion E05 in the 2024 Manchester Conference); call for the **'IDF to be**

proscribed as a terrorist organisation’; urge ‘the UK formally apologise to the people of Palestine for the Balfour Declaration’, and demand Israel’s unlawful occupation and war crimes must end immediately with reparation and accountability (E07 GPEW 2025 Emergency Motion passed at Bournemouth Conference). However, none of these positions identifies the underlying racist ideology which has and continues to inspire the dehumanisation, displacement, dispossession, disenfranchisement and destruction of Palestinians by Israel. The motion seeks to rectify that failure.

4. In addition, the motion recognises the legitimacy of some of the central issues within the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, including that: (a) anti-Zionism is categorically different from antisemitism and the two should never be conflated; (b) Zionism is a racist settler-colonial ideology; (c) the Palestinian people’s right to self-determination includes the right to resistance and liberation from Israeli occupation, domination and subjugation; (d) seeking to end that Israeli occupation, domination and subjugation non-violently requires heeding the call from Palestinian civil society to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era; and (e) all Palestinian prisoners of conscience (including Marwan Barghouti) should be released.
5. This briefing paper expands on some of these issues and refers party members to further sources of information on relevant topics.

■ Anti-Zionism is Not Antisemitism

6. Opposition to the political ideology and State system of Zionism must not be conflated with antisemitism, as reflected in the Green Party's Anti-Racism Policy. Jewish identity is not synonymous with any nationalist project. Zionism is a political ideology not a religion or an ethnic group. Supporting Palestinian liberation and a single democratic Palestinian state with equal rights is a moral and political stance, not an act of religious or ethnic discrimination. Conflating anti-Zionism with antisemitism obscures real daily structural racism and oppression against Palestinians and harms genuine efforts to combat antisemitism.

■ Zionism is a Racist and Settler-Colonial Ideology and Practice

7. On 29 November 2022, Al-Haq – an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation based in Ramallah – launched its report titled: *'Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism'*. The report was endorsed by Addameer (a prisoner support and human rights association); Al Mezan Centre for Human Rights and the Palestinian Centre for human Rights (both independent, non-partisan, non-governmental human rights organisations based in the Gaza Strip); the Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem (whose members are Palestinian non-governmental organisations and community-based organisations); the Jerusalem Legal Aid and Human Rights Centre (formerly the Quaker Service Information and Legal Aid Center); the Community Action Center at Al-Quds University (non-profit community rights-based organisation in the Old

City of Jerusalem); and the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH).

8. The report explained how an understanding of Zionist settler colonialism is necessary for a comprehensive articulation of Israel's apartheid regime and its root causes. The roots of the ideology lie in the decades of Zionist settler colonisation of Palestine from the 19th century onward:

Zionism emerged within the context of European imperial expansion in the 19th century and was modelled on racial conceptions of human sciences and the nation-state. In its quest for territorial conquest, Zionism was founded as a settler colonial movement whose ideological commitments were inherently racial. Despite the ethnic diversity of Judaism's adherents through the millennia, the dual factors of European Christian persecution of Jews and the rise of racial theories in the 19th century sought to attribute adherence to Judaism with a single, distinct racial group. In this historical context, the late 19th century Zionist movement embraced this view of persons of Jewish faith as a distinct 'race,' enshrining it in the charters of Zionist institutions, including those of the World Zionist Organization (WZO) in 1897, the Jewish National Fund (JNF) in 1901, and the Jewish Agency (JA) established in 1921. These institutions apply this racialised distinction as a matter of unique Jewish privilege and supremacy over all others, exercised through the exclusive entitlement to 'Jewish nationality,' which is superior to mere citizens in Israeli law and policy.

9. The current Israeli apartheid regime is sustained through institutionalised impunity and by weakening the capacity of the indigenous Palestinian people and institutions to challenge the myriad human rights violations and international crimes maintaining the regime. As the report from Al-Haq explains, the Israeli regime employs policies of visible segregation and material discrimination against Palestinians in the exercise of their individual and collective rights. These underlying policies seek to dominate and oppress the Palestinian people. Spatial separation, isolation, suppression, and concentration of Palestinian communities, on either side of the Green Line, sustain the pattern of illegal population transfer and demographic manipulation inherent to the Zionist settler colonial project.
10. Al-Haq's report makes it clear that the international discourse on Palestine has obfuscated the root causes of the Israeli regime's prolonged, widespread, systematic human rights violations, and extreme material discrimination:

The long-prevailing 'conflict' paradigm has entrenched the fragmentation of the Palestinian people and international complicity in perpetuating Palestinian oppression. Describing the situation reductively as a 'conflict' between two parties that needs to be resolved by the parties is a misleading approach. Rather, the belligerent occupation is taking place in the context of ongoing Zionist settler colonisation and apartheid, of which it operates as a tool. Failure by third states to recognise this key distinction disregards applicable peremptory norms of general international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the cardinal prohibition

of the use of force. It further disregards third-party responsibility to refrain from assisting in the maintenance of the unlawful situation and the positive duty of states to cooperate to bring it to an end.

11. The motion recognises and seeks to reverse the damaging role which the United Kingdom has played in obfuscating the situation.

Right to Self-Determination includes the Right to Resistance

12. In pursuit of the right to self-determination, the Palestinian people's use of force to resist foreign oppression and to complete the establishment of an independent State is an inalienable right well founded in international law. As those familiar with the history of decolonisation will know, various peoples freed themselves from colonial rule and foreign oppression to realize independent statehood after World War II. Their practices serve as convincing evidence for this right to resist under customary international law. Indeed, numerous United Nations General Assembly resolutions recognize the legitimacy of struggling by all available means, including armed struggle, by peoples under colonial domination or foreign occupation to realize the right to self-determination.
13. Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations prohibits the use of force not only against the territorial integrity or political independence of States, but also in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations. One of these purposes is to **'develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the**

principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples’. This is an international obligation for all States, including the United Kingdom and Israel. In turn, it is unlawful to use armed force or repressive measures, with a view to supporting or maintaining colonial domination, against peoples striving to throw off the colonial yoke in the exercise of their right to self-determination.

14. The illegality of the use of force against such peoples derives from the fact that such action prevents the exercise of a legitimate right deriving from the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples; from the fact that the General Assembly has repeatedly proclaimed that the use of force to deprive dependent peoples of their inalienable rights constitute a flagrant violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples; and from the United Nations practice of opposing the idea that the struggle of colonial peoples for their liberation – the most important phenomenon of the modern age – should be regarded as a violation of the prohibition of the use of force.
15. The provisions of the Charter solemnly recognise the right of oppressed colonial peoples to defend themselves against foreign oppression. The use of force by peoples under colonial domination is not a derogation from the principle of non-use of force in Article 2(4) of the Charter, if such force is provoked by coercive actions committed by colonial powers in order to prevent colonial peoples from exercising their right to self-determination. The right of self-defence of peoples under colonial domination is the counterpart of the right of peoples to defend their national identity against acts of force or coercion which leave them no alternative.

16. As is self-evident to those familiar with the basic facts of the situation, the Palestinian people have for decades been subject to relentless Israeli coercive actions seeking to prevent them from exercising their right to self-determination. In turn, their resort to the use of force – in accordance with the norms set by international humanitarian law – is lawful, and the motion seeks to recognize that fact.

Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions

17. On 9 July 2004, the International Court of Justice (“ICJ”) delivered its Advisory Opinion on the legal consequences arising from the construction of the wall being built by Israel in the occupied Palestinian territory, including in and around East Jerusalem. The ICJ unequivocally held that the wall – built on occupied Palestinian land – was illegal. The Advisory Opinion was yet another recognition of the illegality of Israel’s colonial and discriminatory policies, to be added to the hundreds of UN resolutions which had condemned such policies as illegal and called for immediate and effective remedies.
18. However, all forms of international intervention and peace-making until then had failed to convince or force Israel to comply with humanitarian law, to respect fundamental human rights, and to end its occupation and oppression of the people of Palestine. In response, Palestinian civil society recognised that people of conscience in the international community have historically shouldered the moral responsibility to fight injustice, as exemplified in the struggle to abolish apartheid in South Africa through diverse forms of boycott, divestment, and sanctions.

19. Inspired by that struggle of South Africans against apartheid and in the spirit of international solidarity, moral consistency and resistance to injustice and oppression, Palestinian civil society called upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. They appealed to us to pressure our respective States to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. They also invited conscientious Israelis to support their call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace.

20. This motion heeds that call.

All Palestinian Prisoners of Conscience should be Released

21. The Palestinian prisoners' movement is central to the Palestinian liberation struggle. The prisoners held in Israeli jails – often for lengthy sentences imposed by military courts or under arbitrary administrative detention without charge or trial – are widely regarded as symbols of principled commitment to Palestinian freedom. Moreover, beyond their political significance, the Palestinian prisoners' issue is one that touches many Palestinians intimately. Approximately 40% of Palestinian men in the West Bank and Jerusalem have spent some time in Israeli jails. Prior to 2005, equal percentages could be found in Gaza.

22. Nearly every Palestinian family has experience with imprisonment by Israeli forces, whether that is detention and interrogation or long-term incarceration. If an

immediate family member has not been imprisoned, it is rare to find Palestinians in the West Bank, Jerusalem, Gaza Strip, and to some extent Palestinian citizens of Israel, who have not seen an uncle, aunt or cousin detained behind Israeli bars. Indeed, the release of the Palestinian prisoners is a consensus position among Palestinians with strong support from all sectors of society.

23. The motion seeks to recognise the significance of the Palestinian prisoners' movement to the struggle.

Further Reading

Al Haq: *Israeli Apartheid: Tool of Zionist Settler Colonialism*:
[https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/
download/2022/12/22/israeli-apartheid-web-final-1-page-
view-1671712165.pdf](https://www.alhaq.org/cached_uploads/download/2022/12/22/israeli-apartheid-web-final-1-page-view-1671712165.pdf)

Aureliu Cristescu, Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities: *The Right to Self-Determination*:
<https://docs.un.org/en/E/CN.4/Sub.2/404/Rev.1>

Palestinian Civil Society Calls for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel Until it Complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights:
<https://www.bdsmovement.net/bds-call>

Palestinian Youth Movement, ““Prisoners are the Compass of Our Struggle”: why the release of Palestinian prisoners is central to our liberation”, Shado Magazine, 6 December 2023:
[https://shado-mag.com/opinion/prisoners-release-
palestine-israel-war/](https://shado-mag.com/opinion/prisoners-release-palestine-israel-war/)

Endorsements

This motion has garnered a record-breaking number of co-proposers by members of the Green Party of England Scotland and Wales (GPEW), setting an unprecedented historical record.

This has transcended into external support for the motion by hundreds of organisations, union branches and parties in the UK and globally. This is a global movement. Please share, pass, adopt this motion and its positions wherever you are and do keep in touch!

We thank you for your continued solidarity and look forward to seeing a Free Palestine, from the river to the sea!
Insha'Allah!

Some endorsements include:

Jewish Anti-Zionist Congress

Friends of Al-Aqsa

Pan Islamic Alliance

Global Sumud Flotilla

Greens 4 Palestine

Palestine Solidarity Movement

Palestine Pulse

Jewish Anti-Zionist Action

One Democratic Palestine

International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network

Jewish Network for Peace

(Rabbis With Palestine) Neturei Karta

Jewish Network for Palestine

Greenwich Palestine Alliance

Trade Unionists for Palestine

Palestinian Youth Movement

Cambridge PSC

**Cambridge Artists for Palestine
Palestinian Forum in Britain
Riverway to the Sea
Palästinaforum
Eastbourne Green Party
Jersey PSC
Peterborough For Palestine
Cambridge PSC
Palestine Solidarity Aberystwyth
Blackwater Valley Green Party
Rochdale Green Party
Stockton PSC
Shake the CIV
Newcastle PSC
Stockton-on-Tees Green Party
Center for Islam and Global Affairs / İslam ve Küresel
İlişkiler Merkezi
London Irish Brigade
Peterborough PSC
Brighton & Hove PSC**

**Mohammed El-Kurd
Stephen Kapos
Asa Winstanley
Ronnie Barkan
Greta Thunberg
Prof. Dr. Sami A. Al-Arian
Prof. Peter Hallward
Prof. David Miller
Ismail Patel
Yonatan Shapira
Thiago Ávila
Haim Bresheeth-Zabner**

And hundreds more!

Contact

Greens 4 Palestine:
greens4palestine.uk

Greenwich Palestine Alliance:
www.greenwichpalestinealliance.co.uk

“In light of the Israeli genocide in Gaza, the Green Party of England and Wales is set to vote on a motion declaring Zionism a form of racism—something that, in my opinion, is long overdue.

If the motion passes, it would make the Greens Britain’s first anti-Zionist party and the first to support a one-state solution.

There is no room for wishful or forgiving definitions of Zionism. Zionism is what Zionism does, and that is genocide and settler-colonialism. Members of the party should pass the Zionism is Racism motion without hesitation. And it is about time other parties, collectives, and institutions follow suit.

Zionism must be isolated and rooted out.”

Mohammed El-Kurd



