



Loughborough
University

Specific Protocols for Respectful conversation about the Israel/ Palestine Conflict

Shared principles of agreement when discussing Palestine /Israel crisis: take care with your use of language and labels

- Jewish and Muslim refers to two minority groups in Europe and some other regions who experience racism, and this tends to get worse when violence in the Middle East hits our news headlines
- Palestinian or Israeli are national identities
- Zionism is the belief in the right of the Jewish people to self-determination (and not all people who call themselves Zionist share the same opinion about the exact territory, principles, etc. of the state of Israel). 'Zionist' or 'Zio' should not be used as a term of abuse
- Arab is a grouping of people whose mother tongue is Arabic and there is great diversity across the Arab World (e.g. Jordan can't simply become Palestine just because they are Arabs)
- Islamism is an academic term with French origins that refers to a broad spectrum of political ideologies. Islamism is not synonym for terrorism and should not be used as such.



Shared principles of agreement when discussing Palestine /Israel crisis: take care not conflate issues or make assumptions

- Do not hold Jews responsible for the decisions of the Israeli leaders or Muslims responsible for the decisions of Palestinian leaders
- Do not demand that Jews or Muslims must take a certain political position on the issue
- Do not assume that all Palestinians or Israelis support the actions of their governments
- Do not state that Muslims should leave Palestine because they have the whole of the rest of the Middle East or that Israeli Jews should 'go back to where they came from'



Shared principles of agreement when discussing Palestine /Israel crisis : show awareness and sensitivity to the feelings and experiences of others

- Israelis and Palestinians are human beings, therefore celebrating their suffering and death is not acceptable
- Israel is not a conspiracy to take over the Middle East or the World, and Palestine is not a conspiracy to enforce a Caliphate i.e. An Islamic form of government in which political and religious. leadership is united, and the head of state (the Caliph) is a successor to the Prophet Muhammad on Israel/Europe/the World. These are two national identities who both want to exist in the same piece of land
- Israel is not Nazi Germany. Palestine is not Daesh/ISIS.
- Be sensitive towards people who are pro-Israel and/or pro-Palestine at this time - they may have friends/family involved in the situation, or Israel/Palestine may represent something important to them such as their own sense of struggle or oppression or a place of safety in times of persecution.
- Solidarity with one side or the other is not a crime, they can be pro-Israel/pro-Palestine and still be pro-solution



Signposting specific support regarding Palestine/Israel conflict

Staff or students planning to travel to these areas are advised to check the latest travel advice from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. *The website has been updated so that anyone who is in Israel, or the Occupied Palestinian Territories can register their presence and there are also contact details for those who need help. For those based in the UK concerned about a friend or family member, you can call the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office on 020 7008 5000.*

We will not tolerate hate in our community; whether this is in the form of antisemitism, islamophobia or harassment of any kind. If any member of the community experiences this, we ask you to **report it to us**; we will support you and deal with it.

