

Palestine Solidarity Campaign  
Conference



# JUSTICE IN PALESTINE:

## ENDING APARTHEID, ACHIEVING FREEDOM AND EQUALITY

SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2018, LONDON



It is no longer controversial to draw parallels between Israel and the former apartheid regime in South Africa. In July of this year Israel passed the clearly discriminatory 'Jewish Nation State' law. Since then, the use of the term 'apartheid' to describe Israel has burst into the public consciousness.

But the institutionalised discrimination that the Palestinian people face did not begin in July 2018. Instead, it has been central to the foundation and maintenance of the State of Israel from the start.

The longevity of Israel's apartheid system has been recognised by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), who produced a comprehensive report that concluded "Israel has established an apartheid regime that dominates the Palestinian people as a whole."

Taking the ESWCA report as its foundation, the conference brings together experts to examine the nature of Israel's apartheid regime. We will look at the response required from activists to support the Palestinian struggle, principally through the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

## Speaker Bios

---

### Rebecca Vilkomerson

Rebecca is the Executive Director of US-based Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP). Since its foundation in 1996 JVP has been central in supporting the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Recently, JVP was one of over 40+ Jewish organisations from across the world, who signed a ground breaking statement opposing the equation of antisemitism and criticism of Israel.

### Rima Khalaf

Rima is the former Deputy Prime Minister of Jordan, who served as the Executive Director of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) from 2010–17. Under her lead, the ESCWA authored a report confirming that Israeli practises towards the Palestinian people met the definition of apartheid under International Law.

### Nadia Hijab

Nadia is an author, policy analyst and public speaker. She is the co-founder and board director of Al Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network. Further, she is a co-founder and former co-chair of the US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, currently sitting on its advisory board. She is the author of *Womanpower: The Arab Debate On Women At Work* and co-author of *Citizens Apart: A Portrait Of Palestinians In Israel*.

### Prof Virginia Tilley

Virginia is a Professor of Political Science at the Southern Illinois University in the United States. She specialises in the comparative and international politics of ethnic and racial conflict. Having wide ranging research experience, she has authored numerous policy papers and book-length studies, including *The One State Solution*. She also edited *Beyond Occupation: Apartheid, Colonialism and International Law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories*, a co-authored legal study of Israel's policies in the OPTs.

### Diana Buttu

Diana is a Palestinian-Canadian Lawyer specialising in Negotiations and International Law. She is a former spokesperson for the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and served as negotiator in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. She was also part of the Palestinian negotiating team that assisted in the successful litigation of Israel's Apartheid Wall before the International Court of Justice.

### Hazem Jamjoum

Hazem is an academic and activist, whose work focuses on political-economy approaches to Israeli colonialism and Palestinian elite formation. He is a doctoral candidate in Modern Middle East history at New York University, and a policy member of Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network.

### Sarona Bedwan

Sarona is a Palestinian-American completing her Masters in Art & Politics at Goldsmiths University. She graduated from the University of North Carolina with a BA in Cultural Anthropology, where she co-authored *Negotiating Space: Deconstructing Palestinian Identities and Illuminating Ways of Being: Experiences in Diaspora*. She spent the following five years facilitating and co-organising community efforts to protect low-income workers and unionise students in cities across the South.

### Huda Elmi

Huda Elmi: Huda is an activist, who currently serves as a CLP representative on the Labour Party's National Executive Committee. She is also a regional board member of West Midlands Labour. She has been a prominent voice in the Labour Party supporting the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality.

## Facilitators

---

### Alys Samson Estapé

Alys is the Europe Co-ordinator for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions National Committee.

### Ana Sánchez

Ana Sánchez is an expert on Human Rights and nonviolent social transformation. She currently works as International Campaigns Officer at the Palestinian Boycott National Committee (BNC) and coordinates the global Apartheid Free Zones campaign.

### Suresh Kamath

Suresh served as an EC member of the anti-apartheid Movement (AAM) from the late 1970s eventually becoming Vice-Chair of the AAM from 1989 to 1994, when South Africa achieved majority rule. He is currently an EC member of ACTSA: Action for Southern Africa and Treasurer of the AAM Archives Committee.

### Tareq Baconi

Tareq is a writer and policy expert. He is the author of *Hamas Contained: The Rise and Pacification of Palestinian Resistance*. His writings have appeared in several high-profile publications including *The Guardian* and *Foreign Affairs*. He is a policy member at Al-Shabaka.

### Tamara Ben Halim

Tamara is director of Makan. She co-founded and led Cycling4Gaza for many years, and is a policy member of Al-Shabaka.

### Huda Ammori

Huda is a Palestinian activist. She is the co-founder of the BDS Campaign at the University of Manchester, and active in the 'Stop Arming Israel' campaign. She currently works as Campaigns Officer for the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

### Ryvka Barnard

Senior Campaigns Officer, on Militarism and Security, at War on Want. She campaigns against human rights abuses associated with the growing power of the military and security industry, with a special focus on the UK-Israel arms trade.

## About Palestine Solidarity Campaign

Palestine Solidarity Campaign is an independent and democratic organisation, campaigning for peace, equality & justice for Palestinians, in support of international law & human rights, and against all forms of racism.

### What you can do:

- Join and become a member of PSC
- Take action on the PSC Website
- Follow us on Facebook and Twitter
- [www.palestinecampaign.org](http://www.palestinecampaign.org)
- @PSCupdates
- [facebook.com/palestinesolidarityuk](https://facebook.com/palestinesolidarityuk)
- [info@palestinecampaign.org](mailto:info@palestinecampaign.org)
- 020 7700 6192



**PALESTINE  
SOLIDARITY  
CAMPAIGN**



# AGENDA

## 9.30–12.15: Morning Session (Conference Hall)

---

### ■ 9.30–9.45: Welcome and Introduction

**Kamel Hawwash**, vice-chair of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

### ■ 9.45–10.40: Why Israeli Practices Meet the Legal Definition of Apartheid

**Prof Virginia Tilley** will introduce the crime of apartheid, before outlining how Israel is guilty of this crime in its treatment of the Palestinian people.

### ■ 10.40–12.15: Apartheid as it's Lived: Palestinians Under Occupation, in Israel, and as Refugees and Exiles

Palestinians will outline how the apartheid regime imposed by Israel affects them in all areas of their lives. With: **Diana Buttu • Hazem Jamjoum • Sarona Bedwan**

## 12.30–1.30: Lunch

---

## 1.30–2.45: Afternoon Session (Workshops)

---

### ■ Establishing Apartheid Free Zones

**Alys Samson Estapé** and **Ana Sánchez** will introduce the Apartheid Free Zones (AFZ) initiative which is taking off across Europe. They will discuss its victories, and its applicability in the UK.

### ■ What Can Be Learned From the Anti-Apartheid Struggle?

This working group will provide critical reflections on the anti-apartheid struggle against white minority rule in South Africa. It will discuss its victories and failures, in trying to draw out lessons for those standing in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, justice and equality. Led by **Suresh Kamath** and **Tareq Baconi**.

### ■ What are the Challenges to Establishing a Narrative of Apartheid?

**Nadia Hijab** and **Tamara Ben Halim** will discuss the main obstacles in establishing the apartheid lens in mainstream political and popular discourse. They will discuss with UK activists how to overcome these.

### ■ Growing the Fight Against Israeli Apartheid

This session will focus on how we can effectively stand in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle against Israeli apartheid. It will focus on practical skills, delivered by experienced activists from a number of ongoing campaigns. Led by **Ryvka Barnard** and **Huda Ammori**.

## 2.45–3.15: Break

---

## 3.15–4.45: Building a Future of Freedom, Justice and Equality – Conference Hall

---

This panel will look forward, discussing how to build the struggle against Israeli apartheid. They will synthesise and bring forward lessons from their own contexts, providing insights in to how to build the movement in the UK. There will also be space for feedback from attendees.

Closing Remarks: **Ben Jamal**, PSC Director • **Rebecca Vilkomerson** • **Rima Khalaf** • **Huda Elmi**