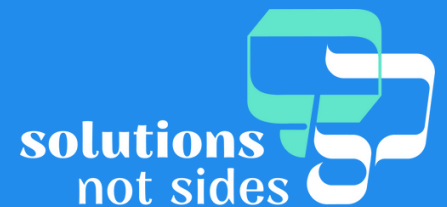


WHY STUDY PALESTINE-ISRAEL AT KEY STAGES 4 & 5?



Studying the conflict at Key Stages 4 & 5



Whether you are already studying the conflict with your students or currently faced with that choice, you'll be aware of how the topic reaches headlines in the UK on a regular basis. However, the headlines are often around how we in the UK are talking about the conflict, and what constitutes offensive or racist speech or attitudes. We are also often seeing pro-Palestine or pro-Israel protests, campaigns, debates, discussions, groups, and celebrities declaring themselves for one side or the other. It's easy to see how the myriad of ways to 'get involved' in the conflict here in the UK can pressure young people into taking a stance on a topic that they know very little about.

Why study the conflict?



Gives students the opportunity to learn facts and information about the conflict from trusted neutral sources, rather than from pressure groups, friends or family, or unverified internet sources



Is an interesting topic that many young people actively want to learn about



Teaches the students about Britain's role in the conflict and is a useful platform to discuss themes of imperialism and Britain's history



Tackles questions around identity, religion, belonging, and nationalism; questions that many young people are dealing with on a daily basis in the UK



Can empower students to know about the conflict before they get to university, where they are often pushed to pick a side



Is a springboard to learning about other countries, conflicts, and cultures in the Middle East, some of whom have ongoing conflicts which students don't have the opportunity to study



Provides students with a safe space in which to ask hard and often polemical questions about religion, race, nationalism, and identity. These questions may cause offence and upset outside of the classroom, but students need to be able to ask questions in a non-judgmental environment

Studying the conflict at Key Stages 4 & 5



All in all, tackling this issue at KS 4 & 5 is akin to tackling a controversial and sensitive issue at one the most formative, vulnerable, and important stages of young people's lives. The teenage years are the opinion-forming years, and also the years in which human beings are more open to hearing divergent views and perspectives, and practising empathy and active listening. By choosing to study this conflict during these years, you are equipping young people with knowledge and skills to go out into society and into the world and discuss the conflict and those connected to it with maturity, complexity, and leadership. If you aren't able to study the conflict as part of the curriculum, there are still ways to provide Israel-Palestine education to your students. SNS offers workshops and has follow-up sessions and homework tasks to keep your students engaged and learning.

[Please click here for more information.](#)



Picture: One of SNS' Palestinian speakers, answering a question during a workshop