



Solutions Not Sides



AVOIDING *Hate*



TEACHER RESOURCE



A guide to for responding to comments surrounding
the conflict and avoiding hate

INTRODUCTION



This document has been created to help schools and other educational bodies respond to comments and discussions on Israel-Palestine and avoid hateful speech

As educators, we will uphold the right of young people to learn about political issues in an impartial space. We will keep that space free from hate, inequality and violence. We will teach skills of critical thinking, communication, active listening and conflict resolution so they can learn to navigate these issues for themselves.



Israel-Palestine: Avoiding Antisemitism and Islamophobia

Think Before You Post



1. Be clear about what you mean when using labels:
 - a. 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
 - b. Palestinian or Israeli are national identities
 - c. 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



- d. 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)
- e. Islamism is an academic term with French origins that refers to a broad spectrum of political ideologies. Islamism is not a synonym for terrorism and should not be used as such

2. Do not hold Jews responsible for the decisions of the Israeli leaders, or Muslims responsible for the decisions of Palestinian leaders

3. Do not demand that Jews or Muslims must take a certain political position on the issue

4. Do not assume that all Palestinians or Israelis support the actions of their governments

5. Anti-Zionism is not always antisemitic (for example if someone is generally anti-nationalism and believes in abolishing nation-states) but it can be, if for example criticism of Israel goes beyond that of its government's policies and uses antisemitic tropes

6. 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'

7. Israel is not a conspiracy to take over the Middle East or the World, and Palestine is not a conspiracy to enforce a Caliphate on Israel/Europe/the World. These are two national identities who both want to exist in the same piece of land

8. Israel is not Nazi Germany. Palestine is not Daesh/ISIS. Use properly defined terms to criticise specific policies and acts rather than making general comparisons

9. Israelis and Palestinians are human beings, therefore celebrating their suffering and death is not acceptable

10. Be sensitive towards people who feel connected to Palestine or Israel—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. Sympathy with the suffering of one side or the other is not a crime, they can still stand for values of non-violence, equality and the rejection of hate



Thank You

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