

Israeli Apartheid Week 2019

Information Pack



Stop Arming Colonialism

iawinfo@apartheidweek.org

#IsraeliApartheidWeek

#StopArmingColonialism

- apartheidweek.org -



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Each year, Israeli Apartheid Week takes place across more than 200 universities and cities. It aims **to raise awareness about Israel's ongoing settler-colonial project and apartheid policies over the Palestinian people**. Panels, film screenings, and creative actions build support for the Palestinian-led Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.

Inspired by the ongoing popular resistance across historic Palestine, we hope to make Israeli Apartheid Week 2019 a powerful contribution to the Palestinian struggle for freedom and justice.

Join us in making this the largest Israeli Apartheid Week yet!

Please do not hesitate get in touch if you need any further information or support along the process. Contact:

Ana Sanchez ana.sanchez@bdsmovement.net

International campaigns officer at the Palestinian BDS National Committee

IAW International Coordinating Committee iawinfo@apartheidweek.org

Check out our website and stay tuned!



A. Background to Israeli Apartheid Week

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) began in Toronto, Canada in February 2005. Organised by the Arab Students' Collective at the University of Toronto, it was a great success, with capacity-filled events that attracted media attention around the world. IAW spread to other Canadian cities in 2006 and by 2013, the week had grown to more than 200 cities across the globe.

Originally just taking place on university campuses, many IAW events now take place off campus as well. IAW is now a key part of the international movement in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.

Israeli Apartheid Week has two main aims:

➤ **Raise awareness about Israel's ongoing settler-colonial project and apartheid policies over the Palestinian people.**

Israel's regime meets the definition of apartheid under international law, as legal experts and scholars point out in this [report](#) launched in March 2017. Further, the apartheid analysis of Israel has helped highlight the colonial context of Zionism. Israeli Apartheid Week uses this framework to make historical and concrete connections with other struggles against racism, discrimination, and colonialism. There is more information and resources about this framework in section F.

➤ **Building support for the Palestinian Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement.**

More than fourteen years since its launch, the BDS movement is now widely recognised by Palestinians, the solidarity movement, Israel and its supporters as a key way in which we can hold Israel to account and end international support for Israeli apartheid and settler-colonialism.



B. How to participate and list your event in the global map of actions

Any group or organisation that agrees to the [IAW Basis of Unity](#) (see below) is encouraged to participate in IAW 2019

➤ Registering for IAW 2019

To register the participation of your organisation in IAW, please fill out the form at apartheidweek.org/organise/

Please note that registering participation does not mean that you will be listed on the website! See below how to get your event in the global map of actions

➤ Listing your events at apartheidweek.org

One of our important shared resources is the apartheidweek.org website, where all of the events taking place across the world are listed. It is really inspiring to see the variety of events and actions planned across the world and to see the collective action we are taking against Israeli apartheid.

Once you have registered, we will send you an email where you can fill in your programmes finalised details, so they can go up on the website. This means local people will be able to find your event easily.

Please provide a link to a Facebook page or website where the full program is listed. A summary of your program and a link to more information will be placed as a pin on the map.

It would be great if you could do this as soon as possible, as this will allow us to update the website on time.



- **Share your events and actions online! Use the following hashtags:
#IsraeliApartheidWeek #StopArmingColonialism**

The organising and mobilising that goes into each year's Israeli Apartheid Week is nothing short of breathtaking. But in recent years we have not done as well as we could at sharing our events and actions on social media and getting the word out about what we are achieving.

So please share your amazing organising with the wider movement and the world. Take photos and videos and write short reports and share them using the hashtag #IsraeliApartheidWeek and #StopArmingColonialism. We will be posting on social media and on the apartheidweek.org website.

C. Themes and artwork for Israeli Apartheid Week 2019

In addition to raising awareness about Israeli settler-colonialism and apartheid and support for BDS, Israeli Apartheid Week also adopts particular themes and shared image to convey a strong message of a global coordinated action and united call to action.

The IAW international coordination committee has suggested the theme #StopArmingColonialism and this artwork for IAW 2019 organisers.





Why #StopArmingColonialism?

Israel is able to maintain its illegal occupation and apartheid regime over Palestinians partly due to its arms sales and the military support it receives from governments across the world. The United States alone is the single largest supplier of arms and military aid to Israel, followed by European states. These directly sustain Israel's oppression and human rights violations. On the contrary, governments in the Global South buy Israeli weapons and machinery to repress their citizens. It is through this buying and selling of Israeli field-tested weapons on Palestinians that Israel can sustain its apartheid, colonialism and occupation. A military embargo on Israel is a measure for freedom and justice of Palestinians and oppressed peoples in many parts of the world.

Join #IsraeliApartheidWeek and organise for #StopArmingColonialism

D. Ideas and inspiration

Being part of Israeli Apartheid Week is easy, following are some ideas, but we encourage you to be as creative as you wish!

Here are 8 ideas for things your group could organise:

1. Show a film

Showing a film can be a great way to engage new audiences and help people understand the realities of Israeli apartheid. Organise a discussion after the film to allow people to further develop their understanding and share their thoughts.

- ❖ **Roadmap to Apartheid** (available [via Vimeo](#)) - Featuring interviews with key South African and Palestinian activists and incredibly powerful footage, this film shows the parallels between apartheid South Africa and modern day Israeli apartheid. Powerfully narrated by Alice Walker. Note: one disadvantage of this film is that it does not cover the definition of apartheid under international law, so it could be good to cover that in the discussion.
- ❖ **The Wanted 18** - an award-winning and astonishing true story. Animation, claymation and interviews highlight an absurd footnote in the history of the



bitter foes. Set in the late 1980s against the backdrop of the first Intifada, *The Wanted 18* begins with residents from the predominantly Christian Arab village of Beit Sahour in the occupied West Bank deciding to buy 18 cows and produce their own milk as a co-operative.

- ❖ **We Cannot Go There Now, My Dear** - Highlights the story of Palestinian refugees that have been living in Syria since they had been forced to flee Palestine in 1948. With the ongoing war in Syria, they, alongside the Syrians have been affected... Their story, however, is more complex. By fleeing Syria and seeking refuge in Lebanon they are becoming a special category of refugees: they are refugees twice over.
- ❖ **The LAB** - a 2013 documentary film about the Israeli military industry. The filmmakers follow some of the figures who profit from the export of the experience of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: military philosophers, arms dealers, advisors and industrialists.
- ❖ **The women spring** - The women spring is a documentary film that talks about different women projects in Palestine. Through their voices you can understand how these projects empower that women to overcome the political situation and the patriarchal society in Palestine. It is available online at <https://vimeo.com/user62740738>

Bidayyat has a great database of films and documentaries. Check their website for further information.

Jewish Voice for Peace has a [library](#) with over 70 films on Israel/Palestine that can be watched for free.

2. Hear from inspiring speakers

There are many speakers ranging from academics, politicians, trade unionists and cultural activists that we can suggest for you to host. See the resources section for further information on inspiring speakers. Be in touch with us via iawinfo@apartheidweek.org and we can put you in touch.



3. Organise a creative protest action

Organise a creative protest action to highlight the complicity of a company or government, or put pressure on a university or other institution to meet the demands of your campaign.

Use creative visuals to help communicate your message, and make sure to share photos and videos on social media using the #IsraeliApartheidWeek and #StopArmingColonialism hashtags.

Check out this [action planning guide](#) from Seeds for Change for ideas and tips on planning your action.

4. Build links with other movements

Joint events and initiatives with other movements that explore how different forms of oppression are linked and how we face common opponents can help us to build links with other movements and strengthen our commitment to a world free from oppression.

5. Hear from an organisation in Palestine via Skype/telephone

Organising an event where an activist in Palestine speaks via Skype or telephone can be a great way to connect with ongoing events and struggles in Palestine. The organisations that would be able to work with you on this include:

The Palestine BDS National Committee (BNC) - the largest Palestinian civil society coalition that works to support and lead the BDS movement internationally.

Palestinian Students Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel A Gaza based student and youth organisation working on BDS.

Stop the Wall - The grassroots campaign against the Apartheid wall, a campaigning group working on the popular struggle in Palestine.

Addameer - Prisoner support and human rights association.



The Union of Palestinian Women's Committees - A Palestinian women's organisation dedicated to empower Palestinian women on all levels and to contribute in the Palestinian national struggle against the Israeli military illegal occupation of the Palestinian territories.

And many more...

6. Host a cultural event or concert

If it's part of Israel's colonial project to erase Palestinian culture, then let's make it part of our organising to showcase and celebrate Palestinian art and music.

Organising a cultural event or concert can be a great way to celebrate Palestinian culture, build connections between people and strengthen our movement, and to draw in people who wouldn't normally be interested in a panel event or workshop type event.

7. Get people together for a workshop

Organise a workshop about Israeli Apartheid, the BDS movement or your current campaign. Hear from an expert, share skills and experiences, or plan the next steps of your campaign.

Be in touch with us via iawinfo@apartheidweek.org and we can suggest workshop facilitators in your area and help you plan your workshop.

8. Spread the word! #IsraeliApartheidWeek

Help us spread the word online about Israeli Apartheid Week. Follow Israeli Apartheid Week on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram including using the hashtag #IsraeliApartheidWeek and #StopArmingColonialism share photos and reports from events you organise or attend.



E. Basis of Unity

Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) was initiated by student activists at the University of Toronto in 2005 and has since spread to cities across the world, including cities in Palestine and South Africa. We are a global network of students, youth, and community organizations working to build Israeli Apartheid Week as part of worldwide actions in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The aim of IAW is to educate people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid system and to build Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaigns as part of a growing global BDS movement.

We push forward an analysis of Israel an apartheid state. Palestinian citizens of Israel are barred from controlling and developing over 90% of the land, and discriminated against in most aspects of life, particularly in education, healthcare, public services and employment; simply because they are Palestinians. Palestinians expelled in 1948 and 1967 are denied the right to return to their homes and lands, while the fact that anyone of Jewish background - from anywhere in the world - has the automatic right to become an Israeli citizen and live in Palestine. In the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Palestinians live under separate and discriminatory military law, in isolated Bantustans surrounded by the Wall.

We work to end all international complicity with this apartheid state. Governments provide extensive political and economic support to the Israeli apartheid regime. Corporations profit through investments and joint operations with Israeli companies. Institutions, organizations and unions provide economic and moral backing by maintaining investments in and relations with Israel. Artists, intellectuals and sports teams legitimize Israeli apartheid by continuing business as usual. It is this type of support and cooperation, which allows apartheid to continue to exist, and this is why ending international complicity is so important.

We understand Israeli apartheid as one element of a global system of economic and military domination. To this end, we stand in solidarity with all oppressed groups



around the world, in particular, indigenous communities suffering under settler colonialism, exploitation and displacement.

We are against the racist ideology of Zionism, which is the impetus for Israeli colonialism, because it inherently discriminates against those who are not Jewish. We are against all forms of discrimination, and believe that there can never be justice without the restoration of full rights for everyone, regardless of religion, ethnicity, or nationality. Our demands are based upon the Palestinian Civil Society Call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel, issued on 9 July 2005 by over 170 Palestinian organizations, which states that:

Boycott, divestment and sanctions should be imposed and maintained until Israel meets its obligation to recognize the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and fully complies with the precepts of international law by:

1. Ending its occupation and colonization of all Arab lands, dismantling the Wall and freeing all Palestinian and Arab political prisoners;
2. Recognizing the fundamental rights of the Arab-Palestinian citizens of Israel to full equality;
3. Respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and properties as stipulated in UN General Assembly resolution 194.



F. Resources

1. Graphics materials & posters

This is the winner poster from our very first IAW Artwork contest



You can now download from our website the editable version and use it in your IAW 2019 organising.

➤ You can also check:

a. **Infographics:**

Visualising Palestine has a wide range of fantastic infographics about Palestine and Israeli apartheid. You can contact them to order printed or high-resolution copies to print yourself.

b. **Factsheets:**

- Youth and Education in Palestine by Stop the Wall
- Walls of Apartheid all over Palestine by Stop the Wall
- Apartheid in Palestine—Definition, History up to the Wall, and Tool for Mobilization by Stop the Wall
- Israeli Apartheid Fact Sheet by War On Want



2. Articles and reports

➤ **UN Special Rapporteurs on Human Rights in the OPT and other UN sources**

- UN Special Rapporteur John Dugard, A/HRC/4/17 (29 Jan 2007)
- UN Special Rapporteur Richard Falk, A/HRC/16/72 (10 January 2011)
- UN Special Rapporteur Richard Falk, A/HRC/25/67 (13 January 2014)
- UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Review of Israel (2012)
- Human Rights Council: Report, Independent Fact Finding Mission on the Israeli Settlements in the OPT, A/HRC/22/63 (7 February 2013)
- UN ESCWA report (2017) “Israeli Practices toward the Palestinian People and the Question of Apartheid”, ESCWA, March 2017 (removed from UN website upon instructions by the Secretary General)

➤ **Civil society sources (activist and academic)**

For beginners

- Palestinian BDS National Committee (BNC): Colonialism and Apartheid
- Ben White: *Israeli Apartheid: A Beginner's Guide*, second edition (2014), Pluto Press
(you can watch a short presentation video [here](#))
- Omar Barghouti: *Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions: The Global Struggle for Palestinian Rights* (2011), Haymarket Books.



For a more advanced reading

- Russell Tribunal on Palestine, a people’s court, Cape Town Session (2011), summary of findings.
- John Dugard, John Reynolds: “Apartheid, International Law, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory”, in; *European Journal of International Law (EJIL)*, 2013
- Birzeit University Institute of Law & Civic Coalition for Palestinian Rights in Jerusalem:
- "Guidelines for Advocating for Palestinian Rights in conformity with International Law" (2014)
- Diakonia: “Same Game, Different Rules Practices and Policies of Racial Discrimination by the Occupying Power in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; Legal Brief” (2016)
- "United against Apartheid, Colonialism and Occupation, Dignity and Justice for the Palestinian People - Palestinian Civil Society Strategic Position Paper (2008) - prepared for the UN WCAR-Durban Review Conference in Geneva
- The Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa:
- “Occupation, Colonialism, Apartheid? A re-assessment of Israel’s practices in the occupied Palestinian territories under international law”, *Human Sciences Research Council*, May 2009
- Al Shabaka, Nadia Hijab & Ingrid Jaradat: “Talking Palestine: What Frame of Analysis? Which Goals and Messages?” (2017)
- Al Shabaka, Yara Hawari: “Apartheid from Within? The Palestinian Citizens of Israel” (2017)
- ECCP & Mundubat Fact Sheet: “Will Europe address Israeli Colonialism and Apartheid? The Case of Palestinian Jerusalem” (2017)