

## **Israel's Right to Exist – Basic Declaration**

The New Center believes that Israel's right to exist cannot be the subject of a serious debate. The state of Israel exists, and it is not for us to debate its right to do so. This could be the end of the discussion, but this is where the problems start in the first place. It seems difficult to conduct a comprehensive debate about Israel's right to exist without including a treatment of the Palestinian state's right to exist. In principle, states are not the primary object of interest; instead, we should direct our attention to peace, freedom, dignity and the well-being of all mankind.

### **1. Israel's policy of oppression in Palestine**

Since the beginning of its existence, Israel has maintained three legal regimes in its territory: a) one for the rights of Jewish residents in Israel; b) one for the rights of Arab-Muslim citizens of Israel; c) another for the rights of Arab-Muslim residents of the occupied Palestinian territories. Israel's policies include murder, torture, robbery and daily oppression in its territories; oppressed Palestinians on the other side react with their own brand of terrorist activities. German scholar Petra Wild has described Israel's policies as "aggressive settlement colonialism." The New Center is therefore convinced that, after almost 70 years of oppression, only a policy of boycotting, disinvestment and sanctions is the appropriate way to change people's minds and hearts – following the South African model.

### **2. The partitioning of Palestine by the UN General Assembly in 1947**

The partition plan was approved in 1947, under the shadow of terrible mass murder of Jews under the Nazi regime. The legal authorization to make this resolution seems dubious on its own. No one, not even the United Nations, no majorities in the General Assembly, have the right, not even with today's well-meaning discretion and with powerful support, and not with the authorization of two-thirds of its members, to partition and allocate foreign territories, much less former colonial territories – and this without weighing the consequences and looking ahead to how people living in the affected lands would be able, after such a partitioning, to live constructively together, in peace and freedom, over the long term. Although it was known that the Zionist movement viewed the UN resolution and the partitioning of territories as a springboard for the incorporation of further Palestinian lands into the new state of Israel, there were no sufficient protective measures put in place for the Palestinians. The foreseeable consequence: 800,000 of them were killed or expelled. The UN General Assembly made a decision –and shirked its responsibilities at the same moment. The partition resolution therefore initiated a scenario for lasting conflict.

### **3. Jewish life in Palestine and around the world**

Throughout the world, Jews must be able to count on a friendly reception in their respective home countries – that is a prerequisite and basic condition for any discussion and all politics. Jewish history is full of so many terrible events that the

New Center believes we need a global culture of welcome for Jews around the world, whose numbers have become comparatively low. As soon as the current immigration problem in Germany stabilizes, and mass-scale return immigration is secured with safety, dignity and good care, it would be possible, gradually over perhaps 20 years, to begin settling and integrating Jews from Palestine, of course on a voluntary basis and only for respectable people who have not participated in the bloody oppression of the Palestinians.

The complete security of all Jews in Palestine is non-negotiable: Jews cannot suffer one iota from the solution of the Palestinian conflict. Unlike 1947, this must be constantly ensured before every change. This demand however is miles away from Chancellor Merkel's security pledge to Israel made before the UN General Assembly in 2007, which we reject. We view Merkel's pledge as an unacceptable support that extends to encouragement of all kinds of criminal acts that Israel's governments have constantly and repeatedly committed – and is still committing to this day. We do not believe that these kinds of blank checks can improve anything – quite to the contrary. In conclusion: When it comes to the Palestine conflict, we need to pay more attention to the daily life of all of the people there – and to promote sensible developments that facilitate peace, justice, prosperity and dignity for all.

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