

RESOURCE 10

Peace organisations in Palestine and Israel

As well as international organisations like EAPPI, dozens of organisations work for peace and justice in Palestine and Israel. Some may be “pacifist” – totally opposed to all violence, while others focus more on human rights and justice. They try to change things in lots of different ways, including protest, dialogue and research. Some are led by Palestinians, others by Israelis; some by both. Here are some examples. Learn more about them on their websites.



Women in Black

Founded: 1988

Women in Black began in Jerusalem when women protested with the message ‘Stop the Israeli Occupation’. The women hold regular vigils dressed in black. The movement has spread to women peace activists worldwide. | womeninblack.org/israel

Palestinian Vision

Founded: 1998

Based in East Jerusalem, PaVision (or ‘Ru’ya’) works with youth to take collective action toward sustainable development of their communities. “It offers training workshops and community service programs that build leadership skills, strengthen self-esteem, identity, and community spirit, and provide positive channels for self-expression.” | palvision.ps

Other Voice

Founded: 2007

Other Voice consists of citizens who live in Sderot and Israeli communities near the Gaza Strip. Sderot in particular has been the target of rockets fired by Palestinian armed groups. The group builds connections between Israelis and Palestinians who believe in nonviolence. | othervoice.org

Combatants for Peace

Founded: 2006

Combatants for Peace was formed by Israelis and Palestinians who were involved in violence. “Committed to joint nonviolence since its foundation, CfP works to end the Israeli occupation and all forms of violence to build a peaceful future.” | cfpeace.org



Youth Against Settlements

Founded: c. 2009

Based in Hebron, Youth Against Settlements is a nonviolent direct action group, which seeks to end the building and expansion of illegal Israeli settlements through nonviolent popular struggle and civil resistance. They run a campaign to “Open Shuhada Street”, the market in Hebron’s old city. | hyas.ps/about-us

Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions

Founded: 1997

ICAHD is a nonviolent, direct action group established to oppose and resist Israeli demolition of Palestinian houses in the occupied territories. | ICAHD.org

B’Tselem

Founded: 1989

The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories documents and publicises human rights violations, and demands an end to the occupation. | btselem.org

ACRI

Founded: 1972

The Association for Civil Rights in Israel works to “uphold the pillars of democracy by demanding that duty-bearers change policies and practices that violate basic rights and liberties”. | english.acri.org.il

Al-Haq

Founded: 1979

Al-Haq is an independent Palestinian non-governmental human rights organisation. Based in Ramallah, it works to protect and promote human rights and the rule of law in East Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. Al-Haq has special consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council. | www.alhaq.org

Rabbis for Human Rights

Founded: 1988

“Representing over 100 Israeli rabbis and rabbinical students from different streams of Judaism, we derive our authority from our Jewish tradition and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Our mission is to inform the Israeli public about human rights violations, and to pressure the State institutions to redress these injustices.” | rhr.org.il/eng

New Profile

Founded: pre-1999

“New Profile is a group of [Israeli] feminist women and men, who are convinced that we need not live in a soldiers’ state. Today, Israel is capable of a determined peace politics. It need not be a militarized society. We are convinced that we ourselves, our children, our partners, need not go on being endlessly mobilized, need not go on living as warriors.” | www.newprofile.org/english



Yesh Din

Founded: 2005

Yesh Din – Volunteers for Human Rights is an Israeli organisation whose staff and volunteers work to protect the human rights of Palestinians living under Israeli armed forces' occupation. They document individual cases and challenge the larger policies that lead to problems.

| www.yesh-din.org

Addameer

Founded: 1992

"Addameer (Arabic for conscience) Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association is a Palestinian non-governmental, civil institution that works to support Palestinian political prisoners held in Israeli and Palestinian prisons." | www.addameer.org

Neve Shalom: Oasis of Peace – Wahat al-Salam

Founded: 1969

Neve Shalom (Hebrew) Wahat al-Salam (Arabic) is a cooperative village founded by Israeli Jews and Arabs in an attempt to show that the two peoples can live together peacefully, as well as to conduct educational work for peace, equality and understanding between them.



Research a peace organisation

Pay particular attention to these questions:

- What is the organisation?
- What are its aims?
- What work does it do to achieve its aims?
- Is the organisation inspired by a particular philosophy or ideology?
- Why do people get involved?
- How successful is it?
- What successes has it had?
- What barriers, opposition or criticism does it face?
- How do you think it could improve?

