

AUSTRALIA'S ROLE & UN VOTING PATTERNS

In 1947, Australia voted for the Partition of Palestine. It was one of the first countries to give de facto and de jure recognition to the Jewish state. The partition decision was responsible for the disastrous consequences visited on the Palestinian people.

Both sides of Australian politics have maintained cordial relations with Israel in lockstep with America's unwavering support for Israel. However, as trade with the Middle East grew in the 1960s, Australia moved towards a more even-handed policy.

At the same time, Australia continued showing puerile support for Israel. Ministers have made declarations like "Israel is in my DNA"; "I wear Israel as a badge of honour"; "we are all Israeli"; or accepting prizes for supporting Israel's "values"; or having a forest in Israel named after them; or accepting Israeli-subsidised tours.

Australian UN voting patterns on the illegality of Israel's settlement expansion have been historically YES or at the very least an abstention, but this changed in 2014 when it voted NO to Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza and an independent Palestinian state – one of only two nations with the US to do so.

Australia's Foreign Minister Julie Bishop appeared to contest the view that Israeli settlements are illegal saying "I would like to see which international law has declared them illegal". The government also questioned the word "occupied" when describing East Jerusalem totally overturning Australia's long held bipartisan approach based on international law - a view held even by the US.

A 2017 Morgan Poll showed that 73% of Australians supported a YES vote recognising Palestine as an independent state of the UN. Previous surveys have overwhelmingly condemned Israel's settlement expansion making a two-state solution impossible.

In December 2016, the UNSC passed resolution 2334 condemning Israeli settlement building in the West Bank. Australia's Foreign Minister, Julie Bishop intimated that Australia would not have supported that resolution if it had been able to vote in the Security Council, saying "the Coalition government has consistently not supported one-sided resolutions targeting Israel". Not one of Australia's other key allies voted "NO", including the USA and UK.

MAP 1: MANDATE PALESTINE

➤ Palestinians can trace their roots in Palestine back 3 millennia to the Canaanites, who as indigenous people of the land, adopted various religions and customs, the most significant of which were the three monotheistic faiths – Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Palestine became a predominantly Muslim country for 13 centuries and was universally recognised as Arab land.

➤ Jews who fled the racist anti-Semitic pogroms in Europe after WW2 and came to Palestine, had no direct link to the land. They are known as Ashkenazi Jews.

➤ The Zionist colonial enterprise for a Jewish homeland in Palestine began in 19th century Europe under the leadership of Theodore Herzl and he pursued that aim relentlessly.

➤ Britain's 1917 Balfour Declaration promised Zionist Jews a Jewish homeland in Palestine despite its 90% majority Palestinian Arab population and despite Britain having no sovereign rights over Palestine because Palestine was still part of the Ottoman Empire. The Declaration was merely a statement of British intentions without legal basis. It can be considered the ROOT of the Palestine-Israel conflict to the present day.

➤ After WW1, the Ottoman Empire was carved up and Palestine became a British Mandate.

➤ British pro-Zionist policies allowed large numbers of Jewish immigration to Palestine, which unsurprisingly caused tensions with the majority Palestinian population which had been openly calling for independence.

➤ The Zionist colonial enterprise sought to make all of Palestine a Jewish homeland.

➤ The root cause of the conflict is the artificial creation in 1948 of modern-day Israel on the continuously Arab-populated land of Palestine and Israel's further expropriation and ethnic cleansing of that same land.

MAP 2: 1947 UN PARTITION PLAN

➤ Between 1936-39, Palestinians rebelled against what they saw as the colonisation of their homeland.

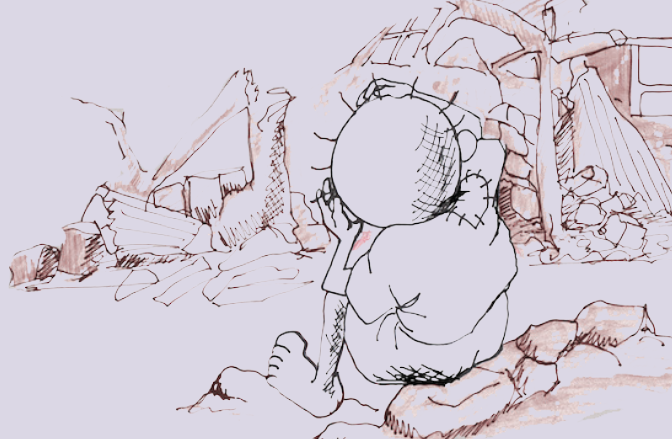
➤ Britain was faced with violence from both Jews and Arabs and turned the problem over to the United Nations, which then came under intense Zionist lobbying for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in the aftermath of the Holocaust.

➤ Without any authority granted by the UN Charter, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 181 of 1947 proposing the Partition Plan of Palestine: a Jewish State on 55% of the land and an Arab State on 45% of the land. Jerusalem was to be established a corpus separatum – an international city under UN administration. Furthermore, this was not binding without the endorsement of the UN Security Council.

➤ No Palestinians or Arabs were part of the special committee UNSCOP that came up with the plan.

➤ The Arabs refused to accept the partition because it was unjust to give the Zionist movement more than half of Palestine when the Jews owned less than 6% of the land and were no more than one third of the population that had only been bolstered by recent immigration.

➤ The UN ignored the rights of the indigenous Palestinian people and its own Charter of Human Rights and helped sow the seeds of the current Israeli-Arab conflict that has not been resolved to this day.



MAP 3: 1949-1967

➤ The Zionists implemented their Plan Dalet, which called for the total expulsion of the Palestinian population.

➤ By April 1948, the underground Zionist paramilitary groups funded by Zionist sympathisers in the US had uprooted, displaced or killed some 250,000 Palestinians. The notorious massacre at Deir Yassin succeeded in frightening the first wave of Palestinians to flee their lands.

➤ The Zionists decided to pre-empt a vote on the Partition Plan going before the Security Council and unilaterally declared Israel a state on 14 May 1948.

➤ Five poorly organised Arab armies tried belatedly to intervene, but the new State of Israel had a fighting force that was better armed and prepared. The Palestinians had no army (they'd been occupied under the Mandate) and had to rely on volunteers.

➤ Over 720,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from 77% of Palestine and 418 Palestinian villages were destroyed. Many fled to neighbouring Arab countries while others became internal refugees.

➤ Israel claimed 77% of Palestine, including West Jerusalem, but declared the whole of Jerusalem inseparable from Israel and its eternal capital. Jordan controlled East Jerusalem, and what is known as the West Bank; Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip.

➤ The Palestinians formed the PLO and sought the liberation of Palestine through armed struggle.

➤ In the 1967 six-day war, Israel seized control of all Palestine. The West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza became known as the occupied Palestinian territories and many internal Palestinian refugees fled again.

➤ Today, three-quarters of the Palestinian people are displaced - more than half outside the borders of their historic homeland. There are about 8 million Palestinian refugees and their descendants worldwide and about 5 million of them are registered for humanitarian assistance with UNWRA. The Palestinians are the largest and longest suffering group of refugees in the world.

➤ Israel has consistently, and in contravention of UN resolution 194, denied Palestinian refugees their inalienable right of return.

MAP 4: 1967-2018 OCCUPATION

➤ After the 1967 war, UN resolution 242 was passed and called for Israel to withdraw from the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza, but Israel has continued to ignore this and all subsequent UN resolutions pertaining to its illegal occupation of Palestinian territories.

➤ Since that time, the Palestinians in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza have been living under military occupation and have seen their rights to self-determination consistently rejected.

➤ The international community has failed to enforce international law, which prohibits the acquisition of territory by war, the transfer of an Occupying Powers' civilians to territory it occupies and the denial of peoples' right to self-determination. It has also failed to hold Israel accountable for the numerous violations it has engaged in since 1967.

➤ Israel's occupation is one of active colonisation designed to change the legal status, demographic composition and character of Palestinian territory in direct contravention of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention.

➤ Israel invites Jews from all over the world to come and live in Israel while at the same time denying Palestinians their right of return.

➤ Israel's policies include: land confiscation; exploitation of natural resources; the building of more than 200 settlements in the Occupied territories to accommodate some 800,000 of its own citizens; extensive use of collective punishment such as curfews, house demolitions and closure of roads, schools and community institutions; the deportation of Palestinian political activists; imprisonment of Palestinians without trial (including children); and torture.

➤ Israeli officials blame Palestinian terrorism for its harsh measures and high rates of imprisonment, yet even nonviolent forms of resistance are considered a breach of Israel's security and punished accordingly.

➤ Disturbingly, Israeli forces are now regularly carrying out extrajudicial killings of Palestinians, many of them children, in what seems to be a 'shoot-to-kill' policy supported by a majority of Israelis.

MAP 5: 2002-2018 WALL = LAND THEFT

➤ In July 2002, Israel began building a Separation Wall in response to the escalating violence of the Second Intifada and to prevent suicide attacks.

➤ The Wall's real purpose was soon shown to be a unilateral redrawing of the borders as it pushed deep into the occupied West Bank annexing more land already staked out by the illegal settlements.

➤ Palestinians have found themselves corralled in enclaves, villages separated from their means of livelihood, thousands of acres of land confiscated, tens of thousands of olive trees uprooted, water wells confiscated and water infrastructure destroyed.

➤ The Separation/Apartheid Wall will be 700 km long if the Eastern phase along the Jordan Valley corridor is completed. More than double the length of the internationally recognised border, it will trap around half a million Palestinians between the Wall and the Green line (1967 Armistice Line). The Wall, when completed, will see approximately 46% – 55% of the West Bank de facto annexed to Israel.

➤ The Wall has already isolated East Jerusalem – the cultural centre for Palestinians and the capital of their intended State – from the West Bank.

➤ Israel is systematically attempting to de-Arabise East Jerusalem and has established 12 "neighbourhoods", which are in fact illegal settlements, to entrench the Judaisation of the area it regards as its eternal and undivided capital.

➤ The International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled the Wall illegal in 2004 saying that it should be dismantled and compensation payments made to the Palestinians affected.

➤ The US has failed to pressure Israel to abide by the nonbinding ICJ decision and has further used its veto power to block any binding UN Security resolution about the Wall.

MAP 6: 2018 - ? OCCUPATION & APARTHEID

➤ Israel is an apartheid state that has denied Palestinian refugees their inalienable right of return.

➤ Israel applies different military laws to regulate the civilian, economic and legal affairs of the occupied Palestinian population while it openly discriminates in favour of the illegal settlers who are governed by civil Israeli law.

➤ A web of nationality and residency laws, with IDs and passes that discriminate between Jews and Palestinians has strangled the Palestinian economy and increased its dependence on Israel.

➤ The Wall, 98 fixed checkpoints, over 360 surprise flying checkpoints and hundreds of other physical obstructions humiliatingly restrict, control and imprison the Palestinians while Israeli settlers/civilians freely come and go via the exclusive highways built on Palestinian land that connect the illegal settlements to Israel.

➤ Israel's marriage laws prevent Palestinians in the occupied territories from living in Israel should they marry an Israeli citizen.

➤ The 1.3 million Palestinians living in Israel make up 20% of Israel's population and have incomplete suffrage because Israel is defined as a state for its Jewish citizens only.

➤ The Palestinians in Israel suffer discrimination in employment, in the per capita expenditure on education, health and infrastructural costs and building permits. While they have a vote and are represented in the Knesset, they have to swear allegiance to a "Jewish State" – one that has enshrined in law their status as second-class citizens.

➤ 93% of the land inside Israel is held in perpetuity for the Jewish people, which excludes Israel's non Jewish Arab "citizens".

➤ The indigenous Palestinian population has been deliberately fragmented and subjected to apartheid policies that separate them as a racial group as well as serving to divide them from each other.

➤ Israel's laws and policies serve to institutionalise a racist system that privileges its Jewish citizens, both materially and legally, over Palestinians – all for the Occupier's dream of a "Greater Israel" on an ethnically cleansed Palestine.

GAZA – SOME FACTS

1.8 million Palestinians are crowded into the tiny Gaza Strip – one of the most densely populated areas in the world. 80% of the population come from refugee families who had to flee their homes in what is now called Israel. They live in Gaza as refugees and have to be supported by UNRWA. Today, 80% of Gazans rely on food aid; 90% of Gaza's water is undrinkable.

Since the 1967 six-day war, Israel has done everything to shut off opportunities for economic growth in Gaza and has made sure that its infrastructure remains undeveloped, particularly when Israel removed its 8,500 implanted Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip in 2005.

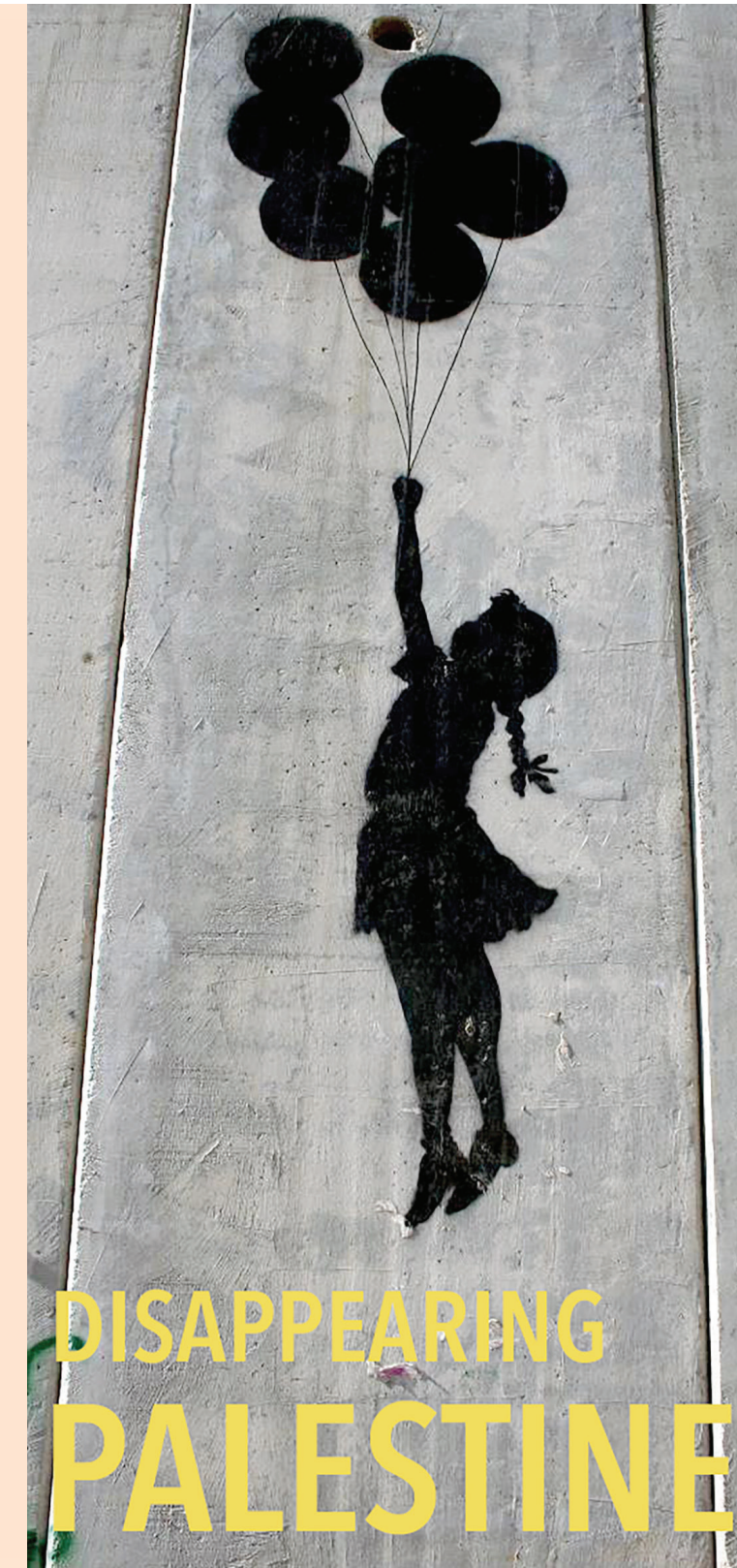
Israel's formidable military cordon around Gaza and the prohibitive sanctions it has imposed on the people for democratically electing Hamas to government in 2006 has created a virtual concentration camp that prohibits the free movement of goods and people in and out of the Gaza Strip.

Israel has perpetrated raids, incursions and ground and aerial bombardments, which have killed and wounded thousands of men, women and children with many still suffering from horrendous disabilities and trauma. As well, homes, whole neighbourhoods, work places and infrastructure have been decimated and because of Israel's prohibitive restrictions on building materials, very little has been rebuilt. More than half a million Palestinians were forcibly displaced from their homes during Israel's 2014 "Operation Protective Edge".

Israel claims its state-of-the-art military assaults are in response to Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel - crude homemade weapons, which rarely hit their target. The statistics show historically consistent disproportionate death ratios, such as Israel's 2008 "Operation Cast Lead" which was a bloody massacre with 155 Palestinians killed for each Israeli. Simply, the Palestinians hemmed in on all sides had no safe place they could run to in Israel's turkey shoot.

Israel has broken ceasefire after ceasefire often manufacturing a crisis to justify its next attack or provoke the Palestinians into carrying out acts of violence against Israel in their desperate attempts to liberate themselves from a brutal occupation.

More than two decades of US-brokered peace talks have not seen one step advanced towards peace or justice.



To this day Palestinians are waiting for justice having been denied their human rights to self-determination and freedom in their own homeland. Meanwhile, they watch as every passing day Israel seizes more and more of their land, builds illegal settlements and excludes them from what is rightfully theirs.

Each map tells a chapter in the story of this dispossession. It is obvious that what remains can never be a viable contiguous Palestinian state.

A solution must be found based on equality, respect for human rights, and international law with the full implementation of all binding UN resolutions.

NOTE

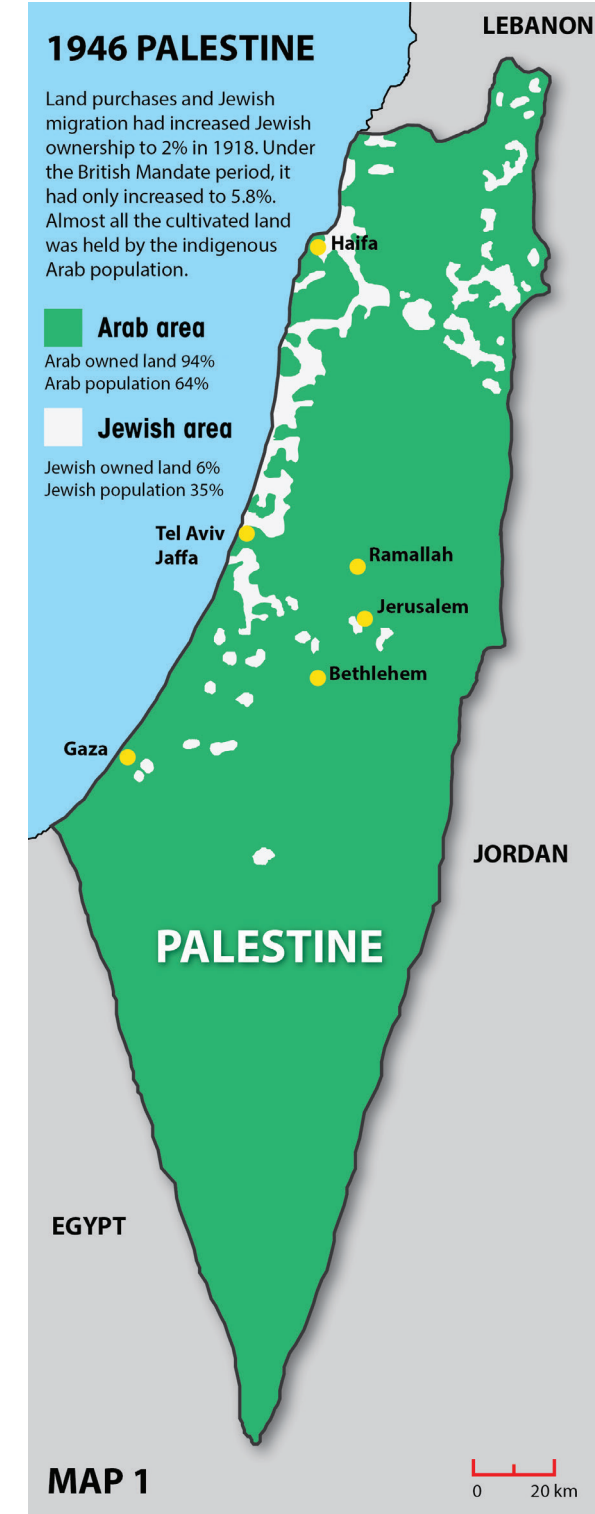
The corresponding text for each map appears on the flip side of the pamphlet. The maps were adapted from the following sources:
 Passia
 Foundation for Middle East Peace
 Palestine Monitor

Reference: "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine" by Ilan Pappé, Oneworld, Oxford, 2006

Front cover picture: detail from "Graffiti on the Wall" by graffiti artist Banksy www.banksy.co.uk

First designed and written by Dora McPhee in 2007 for Australians for Palestine. Revised in 2010. Updated and revamped by Sonja Karkar in 2017.

Australians for Palestine/Women for Palestine Melbourne - Australia



UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

UNGA Resolution 181 — approved 29 Nov 1947
 Called for the partition of Palestine into two states – one Jewish on 55% and the other Arab on 45% with Jerusalem to be an international city under UN administration.

UNGA Resolution 194 — passed 11 Dec 1948
 Called for UN control over Jerusalem, demilitarisation, the return of the refugees, protection and free access to the Holy Places.

UNSC Resolution 242 — adopted unanimously 22 Nov 1967
 After the Six Day War, it called for the "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict", emphasised the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war and called for a just settlement of the refugee problem.

UNSC Resolution 338 — approved 22 Oct 1973
 Called for a ceasefire in the Yom Kippur War and the immediate implementation of Resolution 242 in all its parts.

UNSC Resolution 1397 — adopted in 3 Dec 2002
 Demanded the immediate cessation of all violence in the Middle East and affirmed the vision of two states, Israel and Palestine.

UNSC Resolution 1515 — adopted 19 Nov 2003
 Recalled previous Resolutions 242, 338 and 1397 and endorsed the performance-based Road Map to Peace as a permanent two state solution to the conflict, where Israel and Palestine live side by side within secure and recognised borders.

UNSC Resolution 2334 — passed 23 Dec 2016
 Condemned Israeli settlements and demanded that Israel "immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem".

UNESCWA Report – released March 2017
 This report concluded "that Israel has established an apartheid regime that dominates the Palestinian people as a whole . . . and that available evidence establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Israel is guilty of policies and practices that constitute the crime of apartheid as legally defined in instruments of international law."

The original resolution ignored the rights of the majority indigenous Arab population of Palestine to full self-determination. Refugees from that time have been denied the right of return, have gone uncompensated and continue to live in UNRWA refugee camps, despite Israel's acceptance into the UN being conditional on it accepting Resolutions 181 & 194. Israel has continued to build settlements in the areas it occupies since the 1967 war. Its refusal to abide by UN resolutions has seen a UN report naming Israel an apartheid state, but it was withdrawn under pressure from the US. The head of the UN body which produced the report, resigned in protest.

Disappearing Palestine is produced by

- Australians for Palestine
- Australia Palestine Advocacy Group

with the endorsement of the following Palestinian community and advocacy groups

- Australian Friends of Palestine Association (SA)
- Australian Palestinian Professionals Association
- Beit Jala Palestinian Association (VIC)
- Campaign Against Israeli Apartheid (VIC)
- Canberra Palestinian Community
- Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine (NSW)
- Friends of Palestine (WA)
- Independent Australian Jewish Voices
- Just Peace for Palestine (QLD)
- Labor Friends of Palestine (QLD)
- Marrickville Friends of Bethlehem (NSW)
- Palestine Action Group (NSW)
- Palestine Fair Trade Australia
- Palestinian Community Association of Victoria
- Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network

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- Australian Metal Workers Union (Australia & QLD Branch)
- Australian Services Union (Private Members Branch, VIC)
- Construction, Forestry, Mining & Energy Union (C&G QLD BRANCH)
- Electrical Trades Union (QLD BRANCH)
- Pax Christi
- Rail, Tram and Bus Union
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
- Queensland Teachers Union
- United Voice QLD