

**Submission to the Foreign Affairs Committee
inquiry into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

by

Christian Friends of Israel UK
(CFI Charitable Trust)

Written evidence submitted by Christian Friends of Israel UK (IPC0008)

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Christian Friends of Israel UK is a registered charity that works to establish a biblical understanding of Israel, counter anti-Israel bias in the media, encourage Christians to visit Israel, and channel support to various projects there. We seek to make a difference through prayer and practical action in the UK and in Israel.

We submit the following to the Foreign Affairs Committee's inquiry launched on 25th November 2024. The first three sections correspond to the details of the call for submissions. The fourth part is a brief note on the vitally important spiritual aspects of the conflict.

1. What the UK should do to help bring about a genuine ceasefire

1.1 The UK should adopt much stronger policies against terrorism. Our continued support for the Palestinian Authority (PA) is shameful all the time its 'pay for slay' policy continues to reward terrorists. In effect, we are helping to fund terrorism.

1.2 The UK should implement a firmer police response to supporters of terrorism demonstrating in our towns and cities. Calls for 'another intifada' and for 'Palestine to be free from the river to the sea,' simply encourage the terrorists who are fighting against Israel's existence.

1.3 The UK should be more supportive of Israel in United Nations meetings. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and deserves our support because of that. Instead, we support resolutions in favour of brutal dictatorships and terrorist groups that falsely claim to fight on behalf of the Palestinians. Too often we leave the USA to veto resolutions against Israel.

1.4 In the medium to long term, the UK should place much more pressure on the PA to remove incitement to hatred of Jews and glorification of terrorism from its educational materials. The 2021 report by the Georg Eckert Institute did not provide a complete and accurate picture of the state of the PA curriculum, and thus failed to alert sponsors to the extremely negative impact upon Palestinian children. [a]

2. Lessons from the record of UK Government policies to date

2.1 Since the 1930s, UK Government policies have consistently restrained the Jews and favoured the Arabs in the Middle East, with near disastrous results. Continual support for the formation of a Palestinian state, on the basis that this will end the conflict, is almost inexplicable. All the evidence indicates that the Palestinians do not want a state of their own alongside a Jewish state – they want to remove the Jewish state and gain complete control over the whole area. This is clear from the number of occasions the Arabs have rejected offers of their own state. [b]

2.2 The UK needs to recognise that pressure upon the Israelis to yield more land is a failed strategy. The Jewish people have no other homeland, whereas many of those who call themselves 'Palestinians' came from the surrounding countries like Egypt and Syria.

2.3 The only successful route to peace is for a negotiated solution agreed by both sides and not one forced upon them by international interference. Forcing a 'solution' will simply lead to resentment on at least one side, which will eventually flare up into more conflict.

3. How can the UK assure the resilience of efforts to bring about a lasting peace ...?

3.1 Given decades of failure to bring about peace in various regions of the world, it should be accepted that complete assurance of resilience cannot be attained.

3.2 An action that would improve the resilience of peace efforts is mentioned in 1.4 above. There is a fundamental need to change the culture of martyrdom among the Palestinians.

4. There are spiritual aspects of the situation that are central to the conflict

4.1 The Scriptures published widely in the Holy Bible state clearly that God gave the land to the descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob [c]. Those same Scriptures reveal that while God warned he would send the Israelites into exile as punishment for their rebellion, he would also restore them to the Promised Land by gathering them from around the world [d]. This was something that was understood by the British War Cabinet in 1917 when they issued the Balfour Declaration. The restoration of the State of Israel in 1948 matches God's promise in many ways, including the scale of the subsequent return exceeding the scale of the Exodus from Egypt [e].

4.2 Many Arabs and other Muslims are not prepared to accept this, as they worship a different god. Their god appears to have been defeated in 1948, 1967, 1973 and again in 2024. Therefore, it is inadequate to develop purely rational approaches to achieving peace in the Middle East. Muslim extremists will never be able to accept Israel's existence and its control over Jerusalem. This is the reason behind the repeated rejection of offers to have a state alongside Israel.

References

[a] IMPACT-se Review of Georg Eckert Institute (GEI) Report on Palestinian Authority (PA) Textbooks, August 2021.

[b] Table 1 - **Offers of an Arab State**

1937	Peel Commission report – rejected.
1947	United Nations Partition Plan – rejected.
1948	Israeli offer for truce – rejected.
2000	Camp David summit – rejected.
2001	Taba Summit – rejected.
2007	Annapolis Conference – rejected.
2014	John Kerry's Peace Initiative – rejected.
2020	Donald Trump Peace Plan – declared 'dead on arrival.'

[c] Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 26:3, Genesis 28:13-14.

[d] Deuteronomy 30:1-5, Isaiah 43:5-6; Ezekiel 36:19-24.

[e] Jeremiah 16:14-15.

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