

**BRICUP**

British Committee for the  
Universities of Palestine

# BRICUP Newsletter 129

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### **CAMPAIGN NEWS**

#### **Academics for Palestine (Ireland)**

*Ronit Lentin, Chairperson*

[Academics for Palestine](#), a group of academics in Ireland north and south who believe that the boycott of Israeli universities and higher education institutions is an effective, moral and proportionate way to advance peace and justice in Palestine, was set up in 2013. Our aim is to create awareness of the issues involved and build the academic boycott of Israel in Ireland.

We seek to

- Foster links with academics from Palestine and hold public events where they and their supporters discuss their research and speak about academic life under Israel's military occupation.
- Organise meetings, discussions and events on campuses across the island of Ireland, to keep academics and students informed about ongoing developments in Palestine and Israel.
- Support campaigns by Students for Justice in Palestine in Irish universities. To date Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) groups exist in [Trinity College Dublin](#), and [Dublin City University](#). Other university SJP groups are in the process of being formed.
- Research Irish academic collaboration with Israeli universities and lobby universities and academic bodies to support the boycott (for details please see [https://academicsforpalestine.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/academiaagainstapartheid-afp\\_feb20141.pdf](https://academicsforpalestine.files.wordpress.com/2014/02/academiaagainstapartheid-afp_feb20141.pdf) ). To this effect we have submitted Freedom of Information requests to ascertain the widespread collaboration between Irish and Israeli higher education institutions in relation to, among other things, research and development of weapons and security systems.

- Encourage unions, academic associations and academic institutions in Ireland to take a leading role in the academic boycott of Israel, like their role in the boycott of apartheid South Africa.

To date [237 Irish academics have signed our pledge](#) to support an Academic Boycott of Israel until Palestinian rights are respected. The pledge reads as follows:

In response to the call from Palestinian civil society for an institutional academic boycott of Israel, we pledge not to engage in any professional association with Israeli academic, research and state institutions and with those representing these institutions, until such time as Israel complies with international law and universal principles of human rights.

Our signatories come from a wide range of disciplines in all Irish universities and include many well-known Irish academics, such as Seamus Deane, Ailbhe Smyth, Luke Gibbons, Ronit Lentin, Joe Cleary, Kieran Allen, Kathleen Lynch, Tadhg Foley, Bernard Mahon, Terrence McDonough and Helena Sheehan. At least one of the signatories has previously withdrawn from an EU-funded project because of Israeli involvement.

Trade unions in Ireland have been very supportive. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) supports boycott of and divestment from Israel; and in 2013 the Teachers Union of Ireland (TUI) passed a unanimous motion in favour of an academic boycott, the first academic trade union in Europe to endorse the Palestinian call for an academic boycott of Israel.

Among the academics we have invited to speak are [Dr Munir Nusseibah](#), Director of Al Quds Human Rights Clinic (October 2018); [Shawan Jabarin](#), Director of Al Haq (June 2018), Dr [Nizar Ayoub](#), director of Al Marsad, on the occupied

Golan (September 2017); Prof [Steven Salaita](#), on “Why Palestine still matters?” (September 2017); Dr [Brendan Browne](#) of Trinity College Dublin on education under occupation (March 2016); Prof [David Lloyd](#), University of California Riverside on the conditions of Palestinian academics under occupation (June 2016). We have held book launches for Dr [Anaheed Al Hardan](#), American University of Beirut (October 2016); and Dr [Ronit Lentin](#), formerly of Trinity College Dublin (October 2018).

Forthcoming public events hosted or co-hosted by Academics for Palestine are a book launch for [Ben White](#)’s *Cracks in the Wall: Beyond Apartheid in Palestine/Israel* (28 February 2019); a lecture by Dr [Nimer Sultany](#) of SOAS, titled “Critiquing Zionism: A Palestinian Standpoint” (26 March, Trinity College Dublin); and a film screening with the anti-Zionist Israeli film maker Dror Dayan (Dublin City University, 9 April 2019).

In September 2017 we organised an international conference titled “[Freedom of speech and Higher Education: The Case of the Academic Boycott of Israel](#)” in Trinity College Dublin. The keynote speakers were Prof Steven Salaita, whose offer of a tenured job at the University of Illinois was withdrawn following his tweets during Israel’s 2014 attack of the Gaza Strip; and Prof Kathleen Lynch of University College Dublin, who spoke about precarity in academia and its effect on academics’ engagement in extracurricular activities such as boycotts. This well attended conference was financially supported by Trinity College Dublin despite the attempts to interfere by Israel’s University Presidents Committee. The proceedings of the conference will be published in an edited volume (ed. David Landy, Ronit Lentin and Conor McCarthy) by Zed Books in late 2019.

## **US Campaign for the academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel ([USACBI](#))**

### **Federal judge strikes down lawsuit targeting USACBI members.**

On February 4, a federal judge struck down the three-year old lawsuit, brought by the Brandeis Centre against faculty members of the American Studies Association (ASA), which had voted overwhelmingly in favour of an academic boycott of Israel at its 2013 annual meeting.

The Brandeis Center was founded by [Kenneth Marcus](#), the Zionist hawk and long-time opponent of BDS and free speech on campus, who represented the plaintiffs until he was appointed head of the Office of Civil Rights in the Department of Education by the Trump Administration. The plaintiffs, Michael Barton, Simon Bronner and Charles D. Kupfer, all of Pennsylvania State University at Harrisburg, and Michael Rockland of Rutgers University, alleged that ASA officials and members of USACBI, the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel, had violated ASA by-laws, and breached their fiduciary duties.

See the full article (by Nadia Elia in Mondoweiss) [here](#), and the statement from the US Campaign for the Academic and Boycott of Israel (USACBI) [here](#).

## **Association of Academics for the Respect of International Law in Palestine ([AURDIP](#)),**

See their [February newsletter](#)

## **Belgian Campaign for the Academic Boycott of Israel ([BACBI](#))**

See their February newsletter [here](#).

## **CULTURAL BOYCOTT**

### **No Art for ApARTheid’s Sake’: New York human rights advocates protest at Israel Philharmonic Orchestra**

[Press release from Adalah-New York on February 5th 2019](#)

On Sunday afternoon, seventy New York human rights advocates gathered in a noisy, musical protest in front of Carnegie Hall to demonstrate against an extravagant fundraising brunch and performance by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO).

The IPO, a [self-proclaimed](#) “cultural ambassador” representing the state of Israel, orchestrates a positive image of Israel to divert attention from its human rights abuses, as part of the “Brand Israel” initiative [launched in 2006](#). An Israeli [Foreign](#)

[Ministry official explained](#) Israeli government efforts to rebrand Israel through the arts in 2009, saying, “We will send well-known novelists and writers overseas, theater companies, exhibits” to “show Israel’s prettier face, so we are not thought of purely in the context of war.” [The IPO website](#) proudly states that the Orchestra “represent[s] the State of Israel across the world.”

As concert-goers entered, they passed “No Art for ApARtheid’s Sake” posters and [heard the chants](#) of “They whitewash, we protest! Boycott, sanction, and divest!” and “IPO gets no ovation, ambassador for occupation!” Many reacted with taunts, aggressive insults, and in one case an attempt to physically rip down a banner from a protester’s hand. One told a protestor: “I’m glad they’ve got you in a cage [the pen set up for protestors by the NYPD], just like they do to the people in Gaza.”

Preceding the concert, American Friends of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra hosted a fundraising brunch to support more future Israeli government public relations campaigns, with ticket prices ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Meanwhile, the protestors outside shared a simple “Free Brunch for a Free Palestine,” with a sampling of Palestinian mu’ajanat—za’atar, spinach and cheese pies—plus ma’moul (date cookies), olives, and fruit, highlighting the economic hardships and hunger of the Palestinian people living under Israeli military occupation, siege and apartheid. Attached to the bagged Palestinian brunches were quotes from Palestinian artists and short explanations of the hardships they endured under Israel’s repressive rule. Protesters chanted and sang, and the Rude Mechanical Orchestra played radical hits like “Which Side Are You On,” “Bella Ciao,” and “Wein a Ramallah.”

Zak Aldridge, part of a contingent from Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine ([SJP](#)) attending the protest, commented, “We came to protest the IPO because it needs to be made clear, particularly to the American public, that it is not okay to have normal relations with institutions of an apartheid state. BDS means that that line is never crossed.”

Allison Brown, a member of [Adalah-NY](#), which organized the protest, said, “Israeli artists are free to travel the world, promoting Israel as a bastion of art and free expression, while remaining silent

about the plight of their Palestinian counterparts. Palestinian artists are blocked from practicing, stopped at checkpoints, have their performances shut down and their artwork banned, and sometimes are arrested and even killed by Israel. We’ll protest and boycott complicit Israeli cultural institutions like the IPO until Palestinians are free.”

## **Eurovision News**

### **The BBC should press for Eurovision to be moved from Israel**

*Letter in the Guardian on Tue 29 Jan 2019.*

In May, the BBC intends to screen Eurovision 2019 from Israel. [Eurovision](#) may be light entertainment, but it is not exempt from human rights considerations – and we cannot ignore Israel’s systematic violation of Palestinian human rights.

The European Broadcasting Union chose Tel Aviv as the venue over occupied Jerusalem – but this does nothing to protect Palestinians from land theft, evictions, shootings, beatings and more by Israel’s security forces.

On 8 February, the BBC will screen *You Decide*, the show it says will “[deliver the UK the artist it deserves to fly the flag out in Tel Aviv in May](#)”. For any artist of conscience, this would be a dubious honour. They and the BBC should consider that “*You Decide*” is not a principle extended to the Palestinians, who cannot decide to remove Israel’s military occupation and live free of apartheid. Even Palestinians with Israeli citizenship were told in the nation-state law passed last year that only Jews have the “right to national self-determination”.

When discrimination and exclusion are so deeply embedded, Eurovision 2019’s claim to celebrate diversity and inclusion must ring hollow. Much more in tune with “inclusivity” is the outpouring of support across Europe for the Palestinian call for artists and broadcasters not to go to Tel Aviv.

The [BBC](#) is bound by its charter to “champion freedom of expression”. It should act on its principles and press for Eurovision to be relocated to a country where crimes against that freedom are not being committed.

***Signed by over 50 artists, actors, writers, film makers , musicians and other key cultural***

*figures in the UK. See [here](#) for the full list of signatories*

### **Open letter to this year's Hungarian Eurovision finalists**

Congrats on making it to the final round! We would normally be very happy for Hungary to be going to the Eurovision, except this year it is being held in Israel where there are grave human rights violations happening on a daily basis against Palestinians.

Just days after Israel's Eurovision win last year, even as Israelis were dancing in celebration in the streets, Israeli forces massacred 62 Palestinians in Gaza, including six children, as they demonstrated for freedom and refugee rights. Palestinians have asked the world to support them through boycott as they fight for their basic human rights.

Many international artists have respected this by choosing to not play in Israel; these include high profile artists (like Lorde, Lauryn Hill, Chuck D, Massive Attack, Roger Waters, Patti Smith, Annie Lennox, Faithless, Brian Eno), Eurovision candidates The Tuts from the UK and also former contestants and winners of the Eurovision.

This is a unique opportunity to take a moral stand, one you can look back on and be proud of. We ask and urge you not to take part at the Eurovision in Israel this year! Also remember, there's always next year!

Acoustic Planet  
Vavra Bence  
The Middletonz  
Pápai Joci  
Szekér Gergő Hivatalos  
Nagy Bogi  
Fatal Error zenekar  
Oláh Gergő Hivatalos Oldala

### **Israel must not be allowed to use Eurovision as a propaganda tool**

*Brian Eno in the Guardian on February 18<sup>th</sup>*  
Those of us who make art and culture for a living thrive on free and open communication. So what should we do when we see culture becoming part of a political agenda? "Music unites," says UK Eurovision entrant Michael Rice. What happens when a powerful state uses art as propaganda, to

distract from its immoral and illegal behaviour? Everybody involved in the Eurovision song contest this year should understand that this is what is happening.

Read the whole article [here](#).

## **MEDICAL CAMPAIGN**

### **Jewish Voice for Peace Health Advisory Council: Media Watch**

**February 1, 2019**

The members of the Health and Human Rights Media Watch monitor relevant organizations and websites ( Defence of the Child International, The Lancet, new York Times. Ma'an News, Doctors without Borders, Middle East Eye,+972 , B'tselem etc etc) and compile a list of important news and issues in to a monthly newsletter, The February issue is available [here](#). All are posted on their [website](#) and archived as a resource. [contact.alicerothchild@gmail.com](mailto:contact.alicerothchild@gmail.com) if you wish to join.

### **JewishVoice for Peace health advisory webinar : "Palestinian children in Israeli military detention"**

**Tuesday, March 05, 2019 8:00 PM ET**

Brad Parker will be speaking about the ill-treatment and violations that Palestinian child detainees experience; the impact of those violations on children, families, and communities; and then touch on the congressional advocacy work, including drafting and getting HR 4391 introduced in the last Congress as well as current efforts in the 116th Congress.

Brad Parker is a Senior Adviser, Policy and Advocacy, at Defense for Children International - Palestine. He specializes in issues of juvenile justice and grave violations against children during armed conflict, and leads DCIP's legal advocacy efforts on Palestinian children's rights. Parker regularly writes and speaks on the situation of Palestinian children, particularly issues involving detention, ill-treatment and torture of child detainees within the Israeli military detention system, and violations of international humanitarian law [and](#) international human

rights law. He leads DCIP's US Program and is a co-leader of the [No Way to Treat a Child](#) campaign in the United States and Canada. He is a graduate of the University of Vermont and received his J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law. Follow him [@baparkr](#).

Register [here](#)

## Resources

[\[Video\] AJE's The Stream](#) (focusing on Palestinian child detainees and Ahd Tamimi detention)

Americans for Middle East Understanding (<http://www.ameu.org/>. See [recent article](#)).

No Way to Treat a Child website [www.nowaytotreatachild.org](http://www.nowaytotreatachild.org)

Defence of the Child International – Palestine website <https://www.dci-palestine.org/>

## UK Palestine Mental Health Network

*From the UK PALMN Network Steering Group*

### Mental Health Study Delegation to Palestine, October 22-31, 2019

The UK and USA Palestine Mental Health Networks present a unique opportunity to learn about:

- The mental health impact of occupation on everyday life
- Trauma within families and how it affects women, men and children
- Violence against children, including imprisonment and inter-generational trauma
- Perspectives on the mental health crisis from Palestinian and Israeli professional colleagues

The tour is facilitated by a small UK company with nearly twenty years' experience providing alternative tours to the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT) and Israel. Hotels will be located in Bethlehem and Nazareth with daily travel to Jerusalem, Hebron, Ramallah, Nablus, Jaffa/Tel Aviv, and Haifa. Travel will be in a private comfortable coach with an expert local driver from a licensed bus company.

Space is limited, so don't delay. Send request for application to [ukpalmhn@gmail.com](mailto:ukpalmhn@gmail.com)

### Nihaya Aburayyan, a social worker and narrative therapist, to tour the UK.

The Palestine-UK Social Work Network are arranging for Nihaya Aburayyan, a social worker and narrative therapist, to tour the UK in April. Among other events she will present a session at the Social Work Action Network (SWAN) conference, which will take place on 5-6 April in Liverpool. Other opportunities to meet with Nihaya during her stay are being organised. She can be heard in conversation [here](#). For further information: contact [palukswnetwork@gmail.com](mailto:palukswnetwork@gmail.com)

### Palestine's head of mental health services says PTSD is a western concept

In [this link](#) Dr Samah Jabr discusses the appropriateness of PTSD as a diagnostic category within Palestinian mental health care.

### Conference on Palestinian childhoods, human rights, mental health and resistance .

Dr Jabr will also be in London taking part in this [conference at Birbeck College](#).

The booking details for the Palestinian Childhoods conference on March 8th and 9th can be found [here](#). You will notice that there are fewer places for Friday evening because it is in a smaller venue so early booking is highly recommended. We are trying to get a larger venue for Friday so if you haven't been able to get a place then let us know and we'll advise you if more tickets become available. If you have any queries please contact [ukpalmhn@gmail.com](mailto:ukpalmhn@gmail.com)

## OTHER NEWS

### The Berkeley Faculty Association defends BDS

*The Berkeley Faculty Association*

On December 13, 2018, the chancellors of the university of California (at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San

Diego San Francisco, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz) wrote the following [letter](#).

*As chancellors of the University of California campuses, we write to reaffirm our longstanding opposition to an academic boycott of Israeli academic institutions and/or individual scholars. Our commitment to continued engagement and partnership with Israeli, as well as Palestinian colleagues, colleges, and universities is unwavering. We believe a boycott of this sort poses a direct and serious threat to the academic freedom of our students and faculty, as well as the unfettered exchange of ideas and perspectives on our campuses, including debate and discourse regarding conflicts in the Middle East.* [response](#)

On February 4th, [The Berkeley Faculty Association](#) (BFA), an organization that stands for the future of the public University in California sent the following [response](#) to Berkeley's Chancellor - Carol Christ.

*Dear Chancellor Christ:*

*We are dismayed at the Chancellors' letter of last December, expressing your joint opposition to "BDS" (the movement to boycott, divest from and sanction the Israeli state to protest its occupation of Palestine) and depicting BDS as a "direct and serious threat to academic freedom." This is an issue on which faculty and students across the system have deeply held and widely divergent opinions. For the Chancellors to take a side in such a political debate can only have a chilling effect on campus speech, especially giving faculty pause as they consider taking a public position that is well within the purview of their academic freedom.*

*As faculty members on the Berkeley campus, we ask that you rescind your support for the letter, and make publicly clear your support for the right of faculty and other members of the campus community to take stands on important issues of the day, whether or not those positions match those of campus administrators.*

*Sincerely, The Board of the Berkeley Faculty Association*

Chancellor Christ's response to BFA Letter concerning BDS can be found [here](#)

## **Israeli Council for Higher Education Unanimously Approves West Bank Medical School**

### **Editor**

We have received [news via the Israeli press](#) that on February 13th the Council for Higher Education in the West Bank ('Judea and Samaria') unanimously approved the establishment of a medical school despite objections from Israel's Planning and Budgeting Committee, which is responsible for funding higher education,. The Attorney General, Avichai Mendelblil, had allowed the West Bank council to make the decision just hours before it was dissolved and its authority transferred to the Council for Higher Education in Israel, which will make the final decision and is expected to vote in favour.

Legal sources had described the move as "*a blatantly underhanded move before this body dissolves in the midst of an election campaign.*" The West Bank council operates under orders from the commander of the army's Central Command, whose members are primarily right-wingers.

American casino magnate and philanthropist Sheldon Adelson donated \$20 million to Ariel university in 2017 for its expansion, including building a medical school that will be named after him and his wife Miriam, a physician who was born in Israel.

Ariel had fought for many years to be considered a full-fledged university, and faced opposition from Israel's other public universities, which feared splitting government funds more ways and an increase in calls for academic boycotts of all Israeli professors because of its West Bank location. The university had said it will open the school in October with an inaugural class of 70 students. BRICUP will watch this situation with great interest

## **Award of the Göttingen Peace Prize to the Jewish Voice for a Just Peace in the Middle East- Appeal**

***BRICUP has received this appeal on behalf of the Juedische Stimme fuer Gerechten Frieden***

## ***(Jewish Voice for a Just Peace in the Middle East –EJJP)***

Earlier this month, for its work in promoting peaceful co-existence between Israelis and Palestinians, the German section of the EJJP was awarded the Göttingen University Peace Prize by the board of the Dr Roland Röhl Foundation . Since then criticisms and false statements from Göttingen politicians and the Central Committee for Jews in Germany have led to forceful calls to revoke the prize and cancel the award ceremony, scheduled to take place on March 9th. The EJJP group has been accused of being antisemitic, mainly because of its support for BDS and there has also been for the Sparkasse to close the group's bank account.

The Chairman of the Prize jury, the journalist Andreas Zumach, has demonstrated beyond any doubt that the accusations of antisemitism brought against EJJP are without foundation.

Please write immediately ( English is fine) in support of the decision of the Board jury and the University to stand by the award and to encourage them to uphold free speech and academic freedom in Germany by withstanding the very considerable political and financial pressure put upon them. Letters and emails from academics would be particularly helpful. Please also share this.

### **Write**

To: 'oberbuergermeister@goettingen.de'  
<oberbuergermeister@goettingen.de>;  
'praesidentin@uni-goettingen.de'  
<praesidentin@uni-goettingen.de>;  
'Rainer.Hald@Spk-Goettingen.de'  
<Rainer.Hald@Spk-Goettingen.de>;  
'roehl@goettinger-friedenspreis.de'  
<roehl@goettinger-friedenspreis.de>;  
'neuneck@ifsh.de' <neuneck@ifsh.de>

Cc: 'goettingen@ffn.de' <goettingen@ffn.de>;  
'c.boehm@goettinger-tageblatt.de'  
<c.boehm@goettinger-tageblatt.de>;  
'redaktion@stadtradio-goettingen.de'  
<redaktion@stadtradio-goettingen.de>;  
'reimarpaul@web.de' <reimarpaul@web.de>;

## **ARTICLES**

**BDS is a feminist issue:** Some recent publications

**Some Reflections on BDS and Feminist Political Solidarity:** *Brenna Bhandar, SOAS, University of London, a member of the Centre for Palestine Studies.*

See full article [here](#)

### **An extract**

The delegation of Indigenous and Women of Colour feminists who visited Israel/Palestine in 2011 gives a very clear assessment of what is at stake, and the ways in which anti-colonial resistance is intimately connected to struggles for race, gender and sexual emancipation:

*As feminists, we deplore the Israeli practice of “pink-washing,” the state’s use of ostensible support for gender and sexual equality to dress-up its occupation. In Palestine, we consistently found evidence and analyses of a more substantive approach to an indivisible justice. We met the President and the leadership of the Arab Feminist Union and several other women’s groups in Nablus who spoke about the role and struggles of Palestinian women on several fronts. We visited one of the oldest women’s empowerment centers in Palestine, In’ash al-Usra, and learned about various income-generating cultural projects. We also spoke with Palestinian Queers for BDS, young organizers who frame the struggle for gender and sexual justice as part and parcel of a comprehensive framework for self-determination and liberation. Feminist colleagues at Birzeit University, An-Najah University, and Mada al-Carmel spoke to us about the organic linkage of anti-colonial resistance with gender and sexual equality, as well as about the transformative role Palestinian institutions of higher education play in these struggles.*

The authors of this Special Section argue for a feminist politics of solidarity that is truly emancipatory in its aspirations. The relationship between feminist struggles for freedom and occupation are nowhere more evident than in the violent political repression Palestinian women faced at the hands of the military on 8 March this year, when demonstrating for International Women’s Day. Women attempted to march past

the infamous Qalandia checkpoint, to emphasise the place of women in the liberation movement and to assert their right to enter the city of Jerusalem freely. They were met with stun grenades and teargas, and 11 women were injured. Violence against women in the context of Palestine, as many indigenous and women of colour have argued, cannot be separated from the realities of a highly militarised occupation.

See also

**It is our belief that Palestine is a feminist issue: David Lloyd, University of California, Riverside.**

See full article [here](#)

### **An extract**

So long as antiwar activists denounce the U.S. occupation of Iraq, but not Israel's occupation of Palestine, I will keep drawing the parallels. So long as Western feminists denounce the oppression of Arab women as a result of Islamic fundamentalism, but not as a result of Israeli occupation, I will raise my voice. I will explain that Palestinian women are without any doubt more oppressed by Israel and Zionism than they are by their fellow Palestinian men, that a Palestinian woman's freedom of movement, her right to an education, her right to vote, her right to work, her right to live where she wants, her right to sufficient food, clean water, and medical treatment in her own homeland are denied to her not by her fellow Palestinians but by the illegal occupying power, Israel.

**Bodies, Buses, and Permits: Palestinians Navigating Care: Rana Sharif, University of California, Los Angeles**

See full article [here](#)

### **An extract**

In May 2013, I traveled to Palestine for six months to collect data for a research project that examines the cultural and visual productions of natalist images, including pregnancy and birth. During the time I spent traveling throughout the West Bank and Israel, I took account of the various modes of (re)production of Palestinian women's bodies. I am interested in asking first, what do cultural and visual artifacts of pregnancy and birth indicate about the materialities of occupation and second, how do Palestinian women negotiate, respond to and challenge such images? One particularly graphic example I

examine in my work is a series of t-shirts produced by Israeli battalion members with images of pregnant Palestinian women carrying captions like "One Shot, Two Kills," "Better Use Durex," and "Bet You Got Raped."<sup>1</sup>

**Palestinian Feminist Critique and the Physics of Power: Feminists Between Thought and Practice: Nadera Shaloub-Kevorkian, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

See full article [here](#)

### **An extract**

Palestinian feminism as set forth in this paper underlines the importance of widening the critical feminist lens to account for the physics of power, which involves understanding the geopolitical and economic context that has turned humans into commodities in the hands of the dominant powers. This same context has also turned the principles of "Western and Israeli democracy" into a commodity that is marketed for the purposes of supporting Israel's eliminatory logic and policies. An understanding of the physics of feminist power calls for (a) the deconstruction of feminisms that have refused to regard the *Nakba* as a focal analytical and actual source of feminist theorization and (b) defiance in the face of global, regional, and local amnesia towards the Palestinian right to life in the face of Israel's necropolitical regime of control, and (c) the fight against the relegation of crimes against humanity to 'Present Absentee' status in the face of global and settler colonial physics of power.

Understanding the physics of power, as proposed in a critical Palestinian feminist analysis, requires an acknowledgment that the Jewish state could not have been established and can not continue to exist as a Jewish state other than through force, sociocide, and a geopolitical, biopolitical and necropolitical regime of dispossession. The Jewish state is not content with what it has achieved thus far; it has not yet completed its project of militarized settler colonialism, and its survival depends on its ability to crush all opposition. To stop such dispossession requires building a new and viable feminist discourse and political praxis to address the complex reality of such global and local denials.

## Christians in Israel

*Michael Joseph*

[This article](#) follows Mike Joseph's previous [Planet Extra article](#) on why he believes the IHRA definition of antisemitism harms Jews.

### About Christian in Israel

‘As Jews worldwide become increasingly critical of Israel, Mike Joseph draws on his family’s history as German-Jewish refugees, recently published secret Israeli documents, and original material on the Sabra and Shatila massacre to argue that Christians played a vital role in the development of Zionism, that Christians planned with Israel to perpetrate the 1982 massacre of Palestinians, and that Christians are now seen as Israel’s most reliable supporters, with a pivotal role for Welsh MP Stephen Crabb’

### Rebecca Gould

The article also deals in some detail with the attacks on UK academic, Rebecca Gould (then at Bristol University), made in 2016 by Lord Pickles, Theresa May’s UK Special Envoy on post-Holocaust issues. Lord Pickles condemned [an article](#) which Professor Gould had published in Counterpunch in 2011- a reflection on a journey to Jerusalem from the West Bank, where she then lived. A formal investigation into the claims by Bristol University completely exonerated her.

### The Israel lobby and the European Union: a report from the University of Bath

*David Cronin, Sarah Marusek and David Miller*

See full article [here](#)

### Abstract

The Israeli state and wider Israel lobby have diligently sought to divert attention away from Israel’s crimes. This report examines a number of groups in the lobby in Europe, seeking to cast light on their activities, personnel and networks as well as how they are funded and whom precisely they represent.

Western politicians’ acquiescence to the Israeli narrative is made possible partly because there is a significant international network of groups dedicated to preserving the notion that ‘a democratic Israel is merely acting in self-defence

against Palestinian rocket fire’. These groups often work together or are aligned and many have close connections with the Israeli government and its diplomats. Collectively, they make up what is often known as the Israel lobby. In this report we use the term Israel lobby to refer to a range of think tanks, lobby groups, media related organisations and those that stand behind them in the Israeli government or in conservative foundations or other sources of funding.

## Sign the commitment by UK Scholars to human rights in Palestine

This commitment, which has been signed by over 700 academics across UK’s higher education system, is not to accept invitations for academic visits to Israel, not to act as referees in activities related to Israel academic institutions, or cooperate in any other way with Israeli universities.

It is a response to the appeal for such action by Palestinian academics and civil society due to the deep complicity of Israeli academic institutions in Israeli violations of international law. Signatories [here](#) have pledged to continue their commitment until Israel complies with international law, and respects Palestinian human rights.

For more information, and to sign, go to <http://www.commitment4p.com>

## NOTICES

**Speakers:** We are always willing to help provide speakers for meetings. All such requests and any comments or suggestions concerning this Newsletter are welcome.

Email them to: [newsletter@bricup.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bricup.org.uk)

## Register as a supporter of BRICUP

You can register as a supporter of BRICUP and of the academic and cultural boycott of Israel [by completing this form](#).

We recognise that many individuals may wish to support our aims by private actions without wishing to be publicly identified. Supporters receive our regular newsletter by email and receive occasional emails giving details of urgent developments and of ways to support our activities. We do not disclose the names of our supporters to anyone outside BRICUP or share them with any other organisation.

## **Financial support for BRICUP**

We welcome one-off donations, but we can plan our work much better if people pledge regular payments by standing order.

You can [download a standing order form](#) here.

One-off donations may be made by sending a cheque to the Treasurer, at BRICUP, BM BRICUP, London, WC1N 3XX, UK or by making a bank transfer to BRICUP at

Sort Code 08-92-99

Account Number 65156591

IBAN = GB20 CPBK 0892 9965 1565 91

BIC = CPBK GB22

If you use the direct funds transfer mechanism, please confirm the transaction by sending an explanatory email to [treasurer@bricup.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@bricup.org.uk)