

Scottish Palestinian Forus

Speakers



Jeff Halper



Livnat Konopny-Decleve



Daoud Ghoul



Maria Pallister

Focusing on the Big Picture: Where Are We Headed in Palestine/Israel?

Edinburgh Conference 26 October 2024 10.30 am – 3.30 pm

The Quaker Meeting House Victoria Street Edinburgh EH1 2JL

Focusing on the Big Picture: Where Are We Headed in Palestine/Israel?

Israel's war on Gaza captured the world's attention. It revealed how complicit Western nations are in allowing Israel's genocide to continue without regard for international law. It also brought millions of people of all ages and backgrounds out onto the streets, and university students out of classes and into campus encampments. At last Palestine has become a global issue connecting many other struggles.

However, Palestinians and Palestine remain under threat. Even as we are focused on Gaza and Lebanon, we cannot lose sight of the bigger political picture: collusion among Israel, the US and Saudi Arabia to "normalize" Israel's apartheid regime over all of historic Palestine in their larger geopolitical interests of ensuring Western hegemony over the Middle East in face of Iranian threats and Chinese inroads.

The ICAHD UK conference will evaluate the tragic and dramatic developments in Palestine/Israel over the past year. With the focus on the Big Picture, we ask what is our push-back? How are the Palestinians and their allies ratcheting up their struggle for Palestinian rights?

Speakers

Jeff Halper lives in Jerusalem and is an anthropologist, activist, author and the co-founder and director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD). He will reframe the Palestinian-Israeli question as an anti-colonial struggle, not a "conflict" between "sides" and will contrast Israel's framing with a "justice and rights-based" framings grounded in Palestinian positions, international law and justice.

Daoud Ghoul is from Silwan, Jerusalem and is a Human Geography PhD student at Newcastle University. Previously he directed Shafaq - the Jerusalem Arts Network and worked as an alternative tour guide. Daoud will address how 7 October has affected every Palestinian – in Gaza, in the West Bank, within Israel and in the diaspora and will talk about his vision for one democratic state.

Livnat Konopny-Decleve is a political anthropologist, currently affiliated with the University of Edinburgh. Her research addressed political action and sovereignty amongst Israeli Jewish left-wing activists who left Israel for political reasons and either moved abroad or to Palestinian localities in the West Bank. She will speak about Jewish left-wing activists working in Israel/Palestine and abroad.

Marian Pallister is a journalist, author and chair of Pax Christi Scotland. She will unpack media coverage during times of war and conflict especially concerning what is happening to the Palestinians and the reporting of Israel's violations in general. She will talk about how civil society can hold the media to account and which platforms can be trusted.

There will be contributions from additional speakers.

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