

How to Have a Conversation with Those with Vastly Different Political Views on Israel

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By

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Instead of plunging into a debate, ask questions

- Does Israel have the right to exist? If the other party says no, stop the conversation.
- If yes, listen. Often they say, “What about the Palestinians?” I have heard this many times (are they scripted?). I ask, “What about them?” They usually answer, “Israel is not doing enough.” I say, “You are demanding a utopia that does not exist.” Then offer “I have a different perspective.” If they are not interested, stop.
- Does Israel have a right to defend itself?
- Name another country in the Middle East where Jews, Christians, Muslims, Druze, Bedouins, Bahai, Armenian, openly gay, secular and Traditional Religious communities co-exist? There are none.
- Are there Israeli Arabs? Yes. Do Arabs work in every level of society in Israel? Yes. Including—but not limited to— medicine, law, military, police, teachers, journalists, building, farming, butchers, shop keepers, truck drivers, gas stations, groceries...
- Name another country in the Middle East which allows open elections for Jews, Muslims, Christians and others, where a man or woman can run for office and hold a seat of power (Supreme Court and Knesset)? None.
- The “Palestinian situation.” Has Israel ever offered a two state solution? Countless times. Why was it rejected? Palestinian narrative: restoring honor to their people necessitates eliminating Israel (Palestinian Charter, articles 5 and 15). Does Israel have borders which allow Gazans and West Bank residents to enter Israel? Yes. Pre-October 7th, 20,000 Palestinian Gazans entered Israel daily for work. Some were spies, slaughtering the same people who employed them, on October 7th. Does Israel treat wounded or sick terrorists? Yes. Israel saved Sinwar’s (Hamas leader, mastermind behind Oct 7) life by performing life saving brain surgery while in captivity.

- Why is Israel being accused of being a colonizer/occupier? Israel's presence in the region spans over 3,000 years. Is there proof of Israel's existence? YES. Israel is documented in the Torah (first five books of the Hebrew Bible), New Testament and Koran. Archaeological sites throughout Israel validate Israel's existence in all the Holy Books. When did the Arabs arrive? Approximately 700 years ago various Arab tribes migrated into the region, all the while living among the groups you see in Israel today. They built the Dome of the Rock on our sacred Temple Mount, therefore destroying our holiest site.
- Which religion was wiped out of the Middle East (excluding Israel) other than Jews? The Christians. After the establishment of Israel in 1948, the Jews from surrounding Middle Eastern countries were persecuted then exiled by their Arab neighbors, most fled to Israel. Then the Christian communities were attacked. Clarion produced [*Faith Keepers*](#), which tells the story of the Christian genocide in the Middle East.
- Can an educated Western mind possibly understand the mindset of a Jihadist killing cult? To get a peek into what is happening today, Clarion produced [*Chasing Paradise*](#).