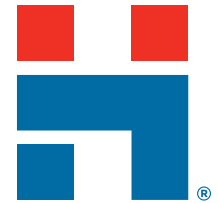


COUNTERING ANTI-ZIONIST MISINFORMATION: A RESOURCE FOR HADASSAH LEADERS

HADASSAH



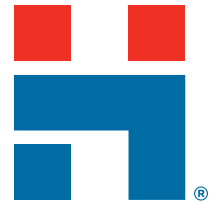
With so much rhetoric and misinformation flying around about Israel, each of us can play an important role by educating ourselves and those around us.

Is Israel “a racist state that practices apartheid”? NO.

- **Israel is not an apartheid state.** Apartheid in South Africa was a system designed to deny certain racial groups, particularly black people, access to political and judicial rights, control these groups’ movements around the country and subject them to inferior living conditions and educational opportunities based on race. Israel’s Declaration of Independence states that Israel, among other things, will: “...*promote the development of the country for all inhabitants based on precepts of liberty, justice and peace; will uphold the full social and political equality of all its citizens without distinction of race, creed or sex, will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education and culture, and will safeguard the sanctity and inviolability of shrines and Holy Places of all religions.*”
- **Israel is a pluralistic and democratic society with equal rights and access to education.** There are [2.13 million](#) Arab citizens of Israel, and they make up [21.5%](#) of the population, who, like all Israeli citizens, receive healthcare, attend schools and universities, run businesses and hold prominent positions in society. Arab citizens in Israel, including women, have full voting rights. The Arabic language has special status in Israel and is mandated to be used in official government forms and documents. Israeli law recognizes Judaism, Islam, Christianity, the Bahai Faith and the Druze religion. The law protects all citizens’ freedom to practice (or not practice) their faith. There are many Arab doctors, nurses, and medical personnel at the Hadassah Hospitals and all hospitals in Israel. Hadassah’s Dr. Shaden Salameh was the first Arab woman to head up a hospital emergency room in Israel.
- **Arabs are represented in Israel’s legislative and judicial bodies.** There are currently [10 Arab members](#) serving in Israel’s Knesset (the parliament). Monsour Abbas is currently the leader of the United Arab List, one of two Arab political parties in the Knesset. Abbas made history by becoming the first Arab-Israeli political leader to join an Israeli governing coalition. Khaled Kabub, an Arab-Israeli, serves as a permanently appointed member of Israel’s Supreme Court.
- **Israel is a haven for women’s and LGBTQ rights in the Middle East.** Women in Israel are afforded substantially more equal conditions than in other countries in the Middle East. In addition to equal treatment and economic opportunity, women – no matter their religion – have access to legal abortions. Israel is also the only country in the Middle East to recognize civil partnerships or have constitutional, employment and other protections for LGBTQ people. Israel has previously given temporary entrance permits to LGBTQ Palestinians seeking refuge.

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Is Israel “committing genocide or ethnic cleansing” against Palestinians? NO.

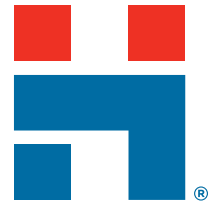
- **Israel does not and has never engaged in genocide.** “Genocide” refers to the intentional physical targeting and destruction of a group based on its identity. For example, Jews were targeted by Nazis to be systematically murdered during the Holocaust. During the Rwandan Genocide in 1994, nearly one million ethnic Tutsi were targeted and massacred.
- **Israel’s war was against Hamas – an internationally recognized terrorist organization –not the Palestinian people.** Israel takes steps to minimize civilian casualties during military operations. Israel’s practice of sending warnings about potential strikes, urging Gazans to move, allowing in aid and even ceasing activity to allow children to be vaccinated are all inconsistent with genocide. Hamas located its military operations near hospitals, schools, homes and other civilian hubs, regularly and intentionally placing civilians in harm’s way.
- **Israel is focused on self-defense, not eliminating the Palestinian people. Hamas and its allies, however, explicitly call for annihilating all Jews.** Hamas makes no secret about its intentions to eliminate Israel and kill Jews, specifically because of their ethnicity and identity. It’s spelled out in their charter and was their explicit goal on October 7, 2023. Outside of Gaza, Arab citizens continue to make up over 21% of Israel’s population and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics’ own data shows that the Palestinian population in the West Bank grew over 3 percent between 2023 and mid-2025.
- **US Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee spoke out against accusations of genocide,** saying, “to say that Israel has been involved in something like [genocide] is recklessly irresponsible and it is factually, off the charts, untrue.”
- **Former US Secretary of State Antony Blinken recently disputed this claim as well,** saying, “the charge of genocide is meritless. It’s particularly galling, given that those who are attacking Israel – Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, as well as their supporter, Iran – continue to openly call for the annihilation of Israel and the mass murder of Jews.”

Did Jews “colonize” Israel? NO.

- **Jews are native and indigenous to the land of Israel, and Israel is integral to the Jewish religion and culture.** Colonization implies that another country sent Jews to Israel to establish control over the indigenous people living in the land and the land’s resources. Jewish ancestry in Israel traces back to Biblical times. Jews are indigenous to Israel – they didn’t colonize – they returned to their homeland.

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Did Jews “colonize” Israel? NO.

- **Before the land was called “Israel” in 1948, it was called Palestine (British Mandate Palestine). Prior to 1948, Jews and Arabs alike were called Palestinians.** Statements like “Europeans colonized Israel” and “All Israelis are white” fully negate the large population of Jews from Arab lands. Mizrahi Jews came back to Israel from the Middle East and North Africa – from Yemen, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Turkey and Lebanon.
- **Many Jews, no matter where in the world they were from, came to Israel to escape antisemitism.** This includes Brazilian, Ethiopian, Bene (Indian), Kavkazi (Caucas), Persian Jews and more, in addition to Mizrahi and Ashkenazi communities. No Jews were sent to Israel by a military force or engaged in stealing the resources of another population.

Is Anti-Zionism a form of antisemitism? ABSOLUTELY.

- **Calling for the destruction of Israel or denying the historical Jewish connection to the land is both anti-Zionism and antisemitism.** There is a very large distinction between criticizing Israeli leaders, policies or government actions and denying the country has a right to exist. Anti-Zionism goes beyond criticizing Israel, perpetuates false accusations about Jews and Israelis and claims that Jews have no right to self determination and Israel has no right to exist. Many Israelis – Jews, Arabs and Christian – protested the government in 2023, but none went so far as to call for the death of Jews or the elimination of Israel.
- **Since October 7th, 2023 anti-Zionist comments have hit an all-time high, especially on college campuses, and they are absolutely antisemitic.** One phrase heard over and over is “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be Free”. It means that from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, “Palestine” will be free of all the Jews – that the Jews will be killed. This phrase, like Hamas’ charter calls for the elimination of Jews and Israel and it is absolutely antisemitic.

At Hadassah, we speak out every day. Stay up to date on what you can do at [hadassah.org](https://www.hadassah.org).

While Hadassah advocates for certain public policy issues in furtherance of Hadassah’s mission, Hadassah is a non-partisan 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and does not endorse or oppose any political party or candidate for public office.