

Abrahamic Initiative on the Middle East (AIME) August 2016

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of AIME is to develop and amplify a strong, local interfaith voice working for a just and sustainable peace in Palestine-Israel.

Common Beliefs

As children of Abraham, we are called to love God and neighbor, and to seek a just and merciful peace in this world. Judaism speaks of the one G-d who calls the covenant community to “tikkun olam,” repairing the brokenness in our world. Christianity speaks of the transformative power of love embodied in Jesus Christ for the healing of the world. Islam speaks of submission to Allah in order to establish peace, justice, and a compassionate world. The core values of Abrahamic ethics are: a deep conviction that human society be founded on justice for all, an abiding concern for the most vulnerable members of society, and a profound calling to practice compassion in thought, word, and deed.

Our work is based on the bedrock values of Abrahamic ethics as well as important secular sources – significant human rights documents such as The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) and the body of international law, specifically the Geneva Conventions and United Nations resolutions pertaining to Palestine-Israel.

We welcome all justice-loving people, whether adherents of other religious traditions or those grounded in humanistic ethics, to join us.

Mission

We seek

- to challenge Israel’s ongoing dispossession and colonization of the Palestinian people dating from 1947, and the resulting erasure of their identity;
- to end Israel’s discriminatory laws and practices against its Palestinian citizens;
- the end of the military occupation of the West Bank 1967-present;
- the lifting of the siege of Gaza;
- to dismantle all illegal Jewish-only settlement construction in the Occupied Palestinian Territories;
- an end to the demolition of Palestinian homes and the displacement of Palestinian families from East Jerusalem;
- a just resolution to the refugee crisis;
- the enforcement of The Arms Export Control Act and the Leahy Law vis a vis Israel’s documented violations;
- work for the conversion of U.S. military aid to Israel to peaceful reconstruction of Palestinian life;
- a nuclear-free zone in the Middle East.

Toward that end, we support

- an annual public forum to raise awareness of critical issues in Palestine-Israel;
- intersectionality work, collaborating with strategic allies and partners such as Jewish Voice for Peace, Black Lives Matter, Movement to End Racism and Islamophobia, U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation, Muslim American Public Affairs Council, to understand the linkages between mechanisms of oppression and liberation struggles here and in Palestine-Israel, and mobilize actions that promote justice and freedom in both locations
- persistent legislative advocacy with elected officials in Congress
- the 2005 call of Palestinian civil society for Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions
- a media presence through op-eds and letters to the editor

Organizational Structure

Founded in 2009, AIME has developed a broad-based “Friends of AIME” database, and operates a website (aimeproject.org). AIME’s working group of 10-12 members led by co-conveners meets monthly. An Advisory Board composed of national and international figures associated with the work for a just and sustainable peace in Palestine-Israel is being formed in 2017.