



مركز العودة الفلسطيني
Palestinian Return Centre

Return Week II

| About us

The Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) is an independent, non-partisan, organisation committed to advocating for Palestinian refugees, in accordance with the historical, political and legal basis of the right to return.

PRC educates the public, defends human rights, and empowers Palestinian refugees, in order to put the plight of the refugees back on the political agenda.

Although the PRC is Palestinian in origin, it is not affiliated to any particular organization or party. We work on the assumption that the plight of the Palestinians is not just a national liberation movement but in essence is about the core values and ideals that are at the centre of any human civilization and international law.

In July 2015, PRC was granted consultative status at the United Nations as a Non-governmental organization (NGO) in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), in recognition of its efforts in standing up for Palestinian human rights.

For more details about the PRC please visit
www.prc.org.uk or scan the code below



| About Return Week II

This year, the Palestinian Return Centre (PRC) has launched 'Return Week II', which aims to raise awareness about the inalienable right of return for Palestinian refugees.

'Return Week II' provides a platform to a plethora of activists, academics, and political commentators speaking up for Palestinians' inalienable rights and discussing pro-Palestine outreach policy and advocacy mechanisms seeking to enable Palestinian refugees to exercise their right of return through international laws and conventions.

'Return Week II' is a commemoration of UN Resolution 194, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the founding of the UN Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), which outline the legality of Palestinian refugees' right to return to their homeland.

This year's event is special in form and content as it gives a great deal of attention to artistic visualizations of the Palestinian refugee plight.

For more details about the Return Week please visit our website or scan the code below:

<https://prc.org.uk/en/event/ReturnWeek>



Our panels are:



Panel

Monday 6th December 2021
Opening Panel - Inaugural Panel

Palestinians Demand Right of Return



Speakers



Ilan Pappé

Ilan Pappé is a professor with the College of Social Sciences and International Studies at the University of Exeter.

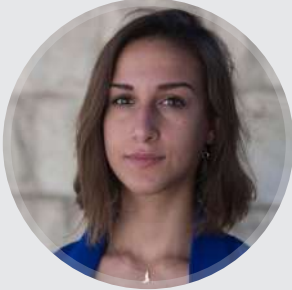
He was formerly a senior lecturer in political science at the University of Haifa. He is the author of *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, *The Modern Middle East*, *A History of Modern Palestine: One Land, Two Peoples*, and *Britain and the Arab-Israeli Conflict*.

Lara Elborn

Lara Elborn is a Palestinian-American international lawyer and activist based in Paris though her family originally hails from Gaza and Yaffa.



She dedicates a large part of her legal practice to human rights work including accompanying asylum seekers in asylum proceedings before French jurisdictions. She is also co-host to a weekly English-language podcast called the Palestine Pod which aims to support the Palestinian struggle for liberation against Israeli settler-colonialism and apartheid.



Mariam Barghouti

Mariam Barghouti is a Palestinian writer and researcher based in Ramallah. She earned a BA in English Language and Literature from Birzeit University, and an MSc in Sociology and Global Change from the University of Edinburgh.

She worked as a journalist and reporter with a focus on the Levant, and published various sociopolitical commentaries from Palestine. Her reporting and analysis have been featured in Al-Jazeera English, the New York Times, the Guardian, Washington Post, BBC, and Middle East Eye. She has also undertaken monitoring and evaluation missions of humanitarian and development aid in Jordan, Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon for various governmental and non-governmental organizations. Barghouti is also a policy member with the Palestinian think tank, Al-Shabaka, and provides consulting on context analysis and risk mitigation, advocacy, and creative direction. She is also a lecturer of Sociology.

Chair: Dr Gabriel Polley

Dr Gabriel Polley is an activist and academic who has been engaged with the Palestine solidarity movement in the UK for eight years.



He lived and worked in the West Bank in 2014-15, and completed his PhD at the European Centre for Palestine Studies, University of Exeter, in 2020, supervised by Professor Ilan Pappé and Dr Nadia Naser-Najjab. His writing has been featured by Middle East Eye, Mondoweiss and the Institute for Palestine Studies, and his first book, *Palestine and the Victorians: Colonial Encounters in the Holy Land* is due to be published by I.B. Tauris next year.



Panel

Tuesday 7th December 2021

The Interconnected Struggle: Palestine & the World - Panel Discussion



Speakers



Ariel Gold (Code Pink)

Ariel Gold is the National Co-Director of CODEPINK and a U.S. Middle East foreign policy expert. She holds a bachelor's degree in Policy Analysis and Management from Cornell University and a masters degree in Social Work from State University of New York, Binghamton.

Before being banned from entering Israel in June 2018, Ariel used to travel to the West Bank one to two times per year to work with Palestinian individuals and organizations on the ground in their struggle for freedom and justice. Though she can no longer travel to Palestine, she carries out creative actions for peace and justice in Israel/Palestine and throughout the world. Ariel has been published in the Forward, Huffington Post, Tikkun Magazine, Truthout, Mondoweiss, and more.

Professor Mark Ayyash

Mark Muhannad Ayyash is the author of *A Hermeneutics of Violence* (UTP, 2019).



He was born and raised in Silwan, Jerusalem, before immigrating to Canada, where he is now an Associate Professor of Sociology at Mount Royal University. He is currently writing a book on settler colonial sovereignty in Palestine/Israel.

Rebecca Miles (Nez Perce)

Rebecca Miles is Executive Director of the Nez Perce Tribe. Miles was elected to the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee (NPTEC), the governing body of the Nez Perce Tribe, in May 2004.



Miles was chosen Woman of the Year by the Washington State University Alumni Association in March 2006. She also received the National River Hero Award in 2007 for her work on Endangered Species Act-listed species in the Columbia and Snake Rivers. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Washington State University in 1997, and a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University in 2002.



Kei Pritsker (BreakThrough News)

Kei Pritsker is a journalist with BreakThrough News, socialist activist and an active member of PSL, the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

Tara Houska (Indigenous Lawyer)

Tara Houska is Ojibwe from Couchiching First Nation. She is a tribal rights attorney in Washington, D.C., and is involved in advocacy on a broad spectrum of indigenous issues. Much of her work is focused on environmental justice and institutional racism.



Tara regularly engages with grassroots organizations dedicated to protection of natural resources, treaty rights, cultures, and sacred lands, notably including Standing Rock & Stop Line 3.

Last year, she co-founded Not Your Mascots, a non-profit dedicated to elimination of stereotypes, caricatures, and mascots that continue to obfuscate the past treatment and ongoing plight of indigenous peoples.



Chair: Shabbir Lakha

Shabbir Lakha is a Stop the War officer, a People's Assembly activist and a member of Counterfire.



Panel

Wednesday 8th December 2021

The Generation That Will Return Global Roundtable



Speakers



Nerdeen Kiswani (Within Our Lifetime)

Nerdeen Kiswani is a Palestinian organizer from NYC. She is the founder and chair of Within Our Lifetime - United for Palestine, a community based Palestinian led organization whose goal is to revitalize the revolutionary spirit of the Palestinian community abroad in pursuit of a free homeland.

She is also a second-year law student at CUNY school of Law, where she organizes with Students for Justice in Palestine.

Enas Ghannam (We Are Not Numbers)

Enas Fares Ghannam, holder of a Bachelor's degree in English, professional diploma in translation, and Master's in translation. Is the project manager of the "We Are Not Numbers" program. This program, which was originally founded to tell the stories behind those who were killed or were injured by Israeli occupation forces, tells the stories of Palestine from the mouth of Palestinians all over the world.

Enas is originally a refugee from Nablus, and worked as a teacher at UNRWA schools for a few years. Her ambition is to help the Palestinian people, Palestinian youths specifically, achieve their goals and become free. By freedom, She doesn't only mean living in a free state, without the Israeli occupation, or having the freedom to move or travel safely, but in her own words, she means freedom to express their opinions and to think in a way that can help Palestine become a better place for themselves and for their children in future.





Leanne Mohamad

Leanne Mohamad is a British Palestinian born and raised in London and a current final year student at Kings College. She won the UK Redbridge Regional "Speak out" challenge in May 2016 after giving an impressive performance to enthusiastic applause.

Leanne delivered a speech entitled 'Birds, not Bombs' based on her country and her passion, Palestine in which she was calling for peace and freedom and to an end of the injustices Palestinians are facing; especially Palestinian children. Her speech called for freedom, justice and peace but after she was faced with a barrage of hatred and abusive comments as well as attempts to silence her. Since then, Leanne has carried on to be a leading activist in the fight for human rights, speaking and appearing at many popular universities and conferences – and she has even spoken in Parliament and has been recognised and spoken internationally.

Janna Jihad

Janna Jihad is an activist and is known for being the world's youngest journalist.



A resident of the Nabi Saleh Village in occupied Palestine, Janna regularly participates in demonstrations against the Israeli Occupation. She began making videos of what was happening in her village, from Israeli occupation to illegal settlement building, when she was only 7.



Maryam Afifi

Mariam Afifi is a Palestinian activist and musician who is a member at the Palestine Youth Orchestra. She was recently arrested while protesting the ethnic cleansing taking place in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Jerusalem. The videos showing her arrest became viral.

Chair: Batool Subeiti

Batool Subeiti is a university student and human rights activist based in the UK.





Panel

Thursday 9th December 2021

Art Exhibition: Visualising Return



Artists



Sliman Mansour



Malak Mattar



Mohammed Saba'aneh



Maher Naji



Halima Aziz



Aya Ghanameh



Jasmine Hawamdeh



Safaa Odah



Hadil Alsafadi



Imad Abu Shtayyah



Fayez Elhasani



Protest Stencil



Panel

Thursday 9th December 2021

Art Exhibition: Visualising Return



Speakers



MP Naz Shah

MP Naz Shah - Is a British Labour Party MP. She was elected at the 2015 general election as Member of Parliament (MP) for Bradford West. In July 2018, she was appointed to a Shadow Ministerial role as Shadow Minister of State for Women and Equalities, working alongside the Shadow Secretary of State, Dawn Butler.

Ms Shah has been an unconditional ally to the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom & justice. During a parliamentary debate, earlier in June, on whether to implement two petitions on economic sanctions against Israel and on recognising the State of Palestine, Shah warned the incoming Israeli Prime Minister, Naftali Bennett, that "if any more Palestinian blood is unjustly spilled under a perverted interpretation of a right to self-defence" that she would push for Israel to be tried before the International Criminal Court for war crimes.

TD Richard Boyd-Barrett

TD Richard Boyd-Barrett - Is an Irish People Before Profit/Solidarity TD, who has been a Teachta Dála (TD) for the Dún Laoghaire constituency since the 2011 general election.



Boyd-Barrett helped to organise mass protests against the war in Iraq in 2003 as chair for the Irish Anti-War movement. He has continuously politically fought for Ireland's Israeli Ambassador to be expelled, and to place sanctions on Israel, for its brutal treatment of Palestinians and its apartheid regime.



Mona Shtaya

Mona Shtaya - Is a Palestinian digital rights defender, she is working as an Advocacy Advisor at 7amleh- The Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media, she is also a partner scholar for both Said Foundation and Chevening awards scholarships 21/22 and studying MA in Social Media and Digital Communication at the University of Westminster. Mona had worked previously with several civil society organizations, she was the community outreach coordinator of Transparency Palestine, the national chapter of Transparency International.



Panel

Friday 10th December 2021

Closing Panel: 73 Years of UN Resolution 194



Speakers



Salman Abu Sitta

Dr Salman Abu Sitta was born in 1937 in Ma'in Abu Sitta, in the Beersheba district of Mandate Palestine. An engineer by profession, and a researcher most known for his ground-breaking project mapping of Palestine in 21st, 20th and 19th centuries and developing a practical plan for implementing the Palestinian right of return of Palestinian refugees.

has spent over 40 years digging for any detail of information about or related to Palestine before, during and after al Nakba. Abu Sitta's work has encompassed not only documenting the Nakba, but also ensuring that "the memories and identity of the occupied homeland are never lost". He is the author of six books and over 300 articles and papers on Palestine, including The Atlas of Palestine, 1917–1966. He is the founder and president of the Palestine Land Society.

Miko Peled

Miko Peled - Is a writer and human rights activist born and raised in Jerusalem.



He is considered by many to be one of the clearest voices calling for justice in Palestine, support of the Palestinian call for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions, (BDS) and the creation of a single democracy with equal rights on all of historic Palestine. He is the author of "The General's Son, Journey of an Israeli in Palestine," and "Injustice, The Story of The Holy Land Foundation Five."



Terry Rempel

Terry Rempel is a Canadian-based independent scholar currently residing on Treaty 6 Territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/ Sauteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others

A graduate of the University of Exeter, Rempel holds a doctorate in philosophy with a specialization in Middle East politics and was a founding member of BADIL Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights in Palestine. His current research projects include a (re)survey of the “Palestinian refugee problem” over the longue durée from the dual perspectives of settler colonialism and ethno-religious nationalism.

Chaired by: Michaela Rafferty



Michaela is a dedicated activist for Palestinian rights, housing for all, refugees and asylum-seekers rights, access to social welfare and effective mental health resources & facilities.



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