

Israel and Palestine

The trustees of IVS are appalled by the violence that has engulfed communities in Israel and Palestine after the illegal and immoral attacks on innocent Israelis and other nationalities and the abductions of civilians by Hamas on October 7th 2023. We condemn unequivocally the methods Hamas has chosen to pursue its political and social objectives.

We also express deep regret at the decisions of the Israeli authorities to pursue their own objectives that has resulted in the killing of thousands of innocent civilians, many of whom are children and the destruction of so much civilian infrastructure in the territory of Gaza.

“Palestinian civilians are not responsible for the crimes of Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups and according to international law Israeli authorities must not make them suffer for acts they have played no role in and can not control”. Amnesty Uk

The current crisis has a long history related to disputes about the land, the Palestinians have been subject to harassment, intimidation and forced evictions from their homes. Historically the ongoing and long term violations and injustices impact civilian everyday lives and now with the Israeli military actions, Gaza is becoming a humanitarian disaster.

We believe that the only durable path to peace in the territories of Israel and Palestine is a diplomatic settlement by which communities and individuals who identify as Israeli or Palestinian may seek peace, security and fulfilment in the state of their choice.

We urge all decision makers in Israel and Palestine to renounce violence and to seek long term peace and prosperity, with the full support of the international community, through dialogue, mutual respect and tolerance of differences.