



A community of public scholars demanding and embodying liberation

October 2023

GEM Collective stands in full and unequivocal solidarity with the people of Palestine – we call for an immediate ceasefire, an end to Israeli State occupation, and a liberated Palestine.

“We arrive here tired of being sacrificed for dominant imaginations of law, order or liberation. Colonisation created conditions that make lives unlivable: our bodies have been rendered disposable in worlds centred around profit. This brutalises and erases us from the bodies that we live in; while enabling others to brutalise and erase us via the policies, policing and imperialism that it justifies....

“We’re building a different reality”

— GEM Collective, Research Statement (2021)

“...I was born a Black woman
and now
I am become a Palestinian
against the relentless laughter of evil
there is less and less living room
and where are my loved ones?
It is time to make our way home.”

— June Jordan, *Moving Towards Home** (2007)

“If you’re not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed, and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.”

— El-Hajj Malik El-Shabbazz [Malcolm X] (1963–65)



We are currently witnesses to what should be unthinkable – a genocide of Palestinians in full view of the world, with the vocal and active backing of many Western states. In an escalation of 75 years of apartheid and settler occupation, and an ongoing policy of collective punishment and brutalisation, Israel is now systematically displacing and killing Palestinians living in Gaza, and those in the West Bank.

As with many atrocities past and present, we see this campaign being fuelled by propaganda, a well-resourced campaign of lies and disinformation being spread by mainstream media, governments, and many with a public platform. We believe wholeheartedly that an essential part of liberation is the sharing of knowledge and information, in uncensored ways, providing clarity on the histories of current situations, and allowing us to ensure we support those who are oppressed rather than those doing the oppressing (cf El-Shabbazz, 1963–65). As such, we provide the reading lists and articles below to counter the propaganda and provide a starting point to inform those who may not be aware of the true history of Palestine. We recognise that there is much more information available about this, so we encourage people to (continue to) engage with work beyond what we've shared here, and to speak out against the continued occupation of Palestine.

There is no shame in not knowing, and so much to be gained from acquiring previously unheld knowledge. We acknowledge that we have not spoken on the numerous peoples around the world suffering brutal persecution, oppression and even genocide; we are speaking to the genocide in Palestine in particular due to the visible nature of the occupation and the fact that the dominant global media forces and states across the West have so blatantly green-lighted this violence in such a way that its support for the Israeli regime is exceptional.

Just as we have shared these resources, we actively invite you to share useful resources with us in return – whether on Palestine or other issues – we are all always learning.

Readings and resources

Full text of poem, [June Jordan's "Moving towards Home"](#)

Introduction to the history

[Palestine 101](#) from Decolonize Palestine offers a comprehensive introduction to Palestine

[Digital Projects | Institute for Palestine Studies](#) - Digital Database of the History of Palestine by the Institute for Palestine Studies

Articles

[My Grandmother, Icon of Palestinian Resilience](#) - By Mohammed El-Kurd

"But my grandmother refused to be a humanitarian case for gazing eyes. She was not a clueless woman. She was always ready with her talking points and historical facts... 'We don't want your sympathy, we want your action,' she would say. Her punch lines intact".

[Sami al-Arian & Daniel Levy on The Return To Open War in Israel/Palestine](#) - By Spencer Ackerman, edited by Sam Thielman

Suggested readings and other resources

[Free Ebooks for a Free Palestine!](#) from Haymarket books

[Palestinian Feminist Collective](#)

"The Palestinian Feminist Collective (PFC) is a body of Palestinian/Arab feminists primarily located on Turtle Island (the unceded lands known as North America)".

[Palestine Youth Movement](#)

"We are a transnational, independent, grassroots movement of young Palestinians dedicated to the liberation of our homeland and people".

[Freedom Within Reach: Palestine Action Toolkit](#)

"Palestinians continue to rise up in the face of systematic home demolitions, expulsion ordinances, and violent forced removal from their homes and land. They remain courageous in the face of unabated Zionist colonial violence"

Solidarity with Palestine – A Radical Black Feminist Mandate: A Reading List – From Black Women Radicals – “This reading list offers a brief primer on the radical Black feminist political mandate, which is solidarity with Palestine.” Contains letters, speeches, interviews, articles, videos, book suggestions and so much more.

Tweet by @MsKellyMHayes “Currently reading *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel Exports the Technology of Occupation Around the World*. I cannot overstate the importance of this book. Everyone should read it. 8:35 PM · Sep 16, 2023”

Reading list | Decolonize Palestine

This is a “carefully put together list so that you can expand your knowledge on all things Palestine”.

Kanafani, Ghassan. (1969) 2000. “Returning to Haifa.” In *Palestine’s Children: Returning to Haifa and Other Stories*, translated by Barbara Harlow and Karen E. Riley, 149–95. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

For conversations with children about Palestine.

JVP FREE FILM LIBRARY Borrow Films for Free Films are a dynamic way to engage people in learning, reflection, and action. Shar

Over 70 Films About Israel/Palestine You Can Watch for Free, on Jewish Voice for Peace website

Statements of solidarity and suggested actions

British prisons, police and Palestine – statement by Nejma Collective

“This is a history which also makes it explicitly clear that Palestinians are responding to decades of violence and have no option but to resist or to die trying. Indeed, their right to resist occupation is enshrined in international law.”

Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) Movement – Palestine Solidarity Campaign

“The Palestinian-led BDS movement is a global campaign initiated in 2005 following a call from Palestinian civil society for the international community to use the tactics of boycott, divestment and sanctions to oppose Israel’s regime of settler-colonialism, military occupation and apartheid.”

STOP GAZA GENOCIDE: Take Action Now! (Public Toolkit)

“USCPR is a political home for all who believe that freedom for the Palestinian people is an integral part of achieving our collective liberation. ”

NB: Points 1 & 2 are US-centric, but beyond are more globally applicable.

UK-based organisations in support of Palestine

Friends of Al-Aqsa (FOA): <https://www.foa.org.uk>

Scottish-Palestine Solidarity Campaign: <https://www.scottishpsc.org.uk>

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: <https://palestinecampaign.org>

For those in Scotland, know how politicians are manifesting their positions in relation to Palestine: <https://palestinecampaign.org/scotland/>