

Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration – Presentation and Background

Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration – Presentation and Background Judaism is not Zionism – Making Anti-Zionist Jewish Voices Visible

On March 14, the Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration will be officially presented in Vienna. With this declaration, we send a clear message against the conflation of Judaism and Zionism and the political misuse of Jewish identity to justify the oppression of Palestinians.

For decades, Zionist institutions and political actors have claimed to speak on behalf of all Jews. At the same time, Jewish voices that oppose Zionism have been marginalized, delegitimized, or silenced. The media and political discourse predominantly recognize only one Jewish perspective: the Zionist one.

We, the signatories of this declaration, make it clear: We refuse to be co-opted. Anti-Zionist positions have a long Jewish tradition, which is often deliberately erased from public debate. The Holocaust must not be instrumentalized to suppress criticism of the Zionist colonial project and Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people.

What does the declaration demand?

The Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration was written by Jewish activists in Austria to make the diversity of Jewish perspectives visible. It explicitly rejects the equation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism, the instrumentalization of Jewish identity by Zionist organizations, and the systematic repression of Palestinian solidarity movements.

The declaration identifies Zionism as a settler-colonial, racist, and expansionist project that does not represent Jewish identity or Jewish values. It condemns Israel's genocide in Gaza, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid policies, as well as the Western governments that support them.

We demand:

- Recognition of the diversity of Jewish voices – Jews are not a monolithic group, and Zionism does not speak for all of us.
- An end to the conflation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism – Criticism of Israel is not antisemitism.
- An end to the repression of Palestinian solidarity movements – The struggle for justice in Palestine must not be criminalized.
- The unrestricted right to freedom of expression – Anti-Zionist Jews must be heard as equal voices in public discourse, free from defamation.

What's next?

The publication of the Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration is only the first step. On June 13, 2024, a Jewish Anti-Zionist Congress will be held in Vienna. This event will engage with anti-Zionist Jewish perspectives, strengthen networks, and work against the political instrumentalization of Jewish identity.

For inquiries and interview requests, please contact:

Contact:

Dalia Sarig

✉ dalia@sarig.at

🌐 www.juedisch-antizionistisch.at

Background Information: Jewish Anti-Zionism

Jewish anti-Zionism has a long and diverse history, which is often deliberately erased or made invisible. While Zionism is portrayed by its supporters as the only legitimate Jewish political movement, there have always been Jewish voices that oppose the concept of a "Jewish state" and the colonial project of Zionism. These voices have been systematically marginalized both within Jewish communities and in public discourse.

Historical Jewish Anti-Zionist Movements

Since the emergence of political Zionism in the late 19th century, there has been Jewish resistance to its ideology and practice. Some of the most significant anti-Zionist movements include:

- The Bund – The General Jewish Workers' Bund (founded in 1897 in Vilnius) was a socialist Jewish movement that opposed Zionism and instead fought for Jewish self-determination within the countries where Jews already lived.
- Orthodox Anti-Zionism – Many religious Jewish groups, including Neturei Karta, reject Zionism as an improper use of Jewish tradition and a violation of religious principles.
- Radical Jewish Left – Many Jewish communists, anarchists, and socialists opposed Zionism as a colonial movement based on dispossession and racial segregation.

Jewish Voices in Today's Discourse: Marginalization and Repression

In today's political landscape, Jewish anti-Zionist voices are systematically delegitimized. Zionist organizations and political actors claim the exclusive right to speak on behalf of all Jews while branding Jewish critics of Israel as "self-hating Jews" or "enemies of Israel."

Particularly in Europe, the equation of anti-Zionism with antisemitism has led to severe repression against pro-Palestinian and Jewish anti-Zionist groups. This includes:

- Pressure on Jewish organizations and individuals who advocate for Palestinian rights.
- Media exclusion of Jewish voices that do not align with Zionism.
- Repression of Jewish activists who support Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS).

Why is Jewish Anti-Zionism Relevant Today?

The need to make Jewish anti-Zionism visible is more urgent than ever. The Israeli government is committing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Gaza, backed by Western states that suppress any criticism. While Israel claims to act "in the name of all Jews," Jewish activists worldwide are rising up and saying:

"Not in our name!"

The Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration of Vienna is an important step in strengthening these voices and making Jewish anti-Zionism an integral part of the global struggle for justice, human rights, and the liberation of Palestine.

For more information and the full text of the Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration, please visit:

[🔗 www.juedisch-antizionistisch.at](http://www.juedisch-antizionistisch.at)