

Viennese Jewish Anti-Zionist Declaration

We, the undersigned, are individuals with Jewish family backgrounds, descendants of displaced persons and/or Holocaust victims, Holocaust survivors, and resistance fighters against the Nazi regime with ties to Austria. We are committed to universal human rights, equality, and a just peace.

We do not feel represented by the *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde*, which claims to represent Jews in Austria and unconditionally supports every action of Israel.

We, the undersigned, call on Austrian politics, media, and state institutions to finally acknowledge, recognize, and give a place in public discourse to the diversity of opinions among the Jewish population of this country and worldwide.

Around the globe, Jews like us condemn Israel's actions against Palestinians, the genocide Israel is committing in Gaza, the ethnic cleansing, and the colonial seizure of the West Bank. We unequivocally declare: *"This does not happen in our name!"* and *"Never again must apply to all people!"*

The anti-Semitic mayor of Vienna, Karl Lueger, once declared: "I decide who is a Jew." Those who aligned with his policies were exempt from being labeled as "Jews" by Lueger, while dissenting voices opposing his policies were, by his definition, the voices "of the Jews."

Even today, our anti-colonial Jewish voices in Austria are silenced and delegitimized according to this principle—albeit reversed as "We decide who is not Jewish." Those who align with Israel are allowed to be considered "Jewish" and to speak as Jews, while those who do not are expected to remain silent as "non-Jews." We recognize this as a form of anti-Semitism and as complicity in spreading anti-Semitism, as it conflates Jewish identity inseparably with the genocide of Palestinians and fuels hatred against Jews.

We, the undersigned, unequivocally demand the right to freely express our democratic and anti-colonial views. We demand the right to freedom of speech without being labelled by some as "traitors," "fake Jews," or "self-hating Jews," and by others as "terror supporters," "Israel-haters," or simply "anti-Semites."

We, the undersigned, refer to the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism from March 2021, which can provide a timely definition of anti-Semitism. Both the authors and the 359 signatories are highly reputable academics and experts in the field of anti-Semitism research. The Jerusalem Declaration can offer an alternative to the deliberately vague 2016 working definition of anti-Semitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which serves as a political tool to suppress criticism of Israel.

We, the undersigned, support Palestinian demands for justice, self-determination, and the full realization of all human, national, political, and civil rights as enshrined in international law.

We, the undersigned, understand Judaism as a religion and a culture with rich traditions. We reject Zionism as a form of ethno-nationalism, racism, and colonialism.

We, the undersigned, recognize Zionism as a nationalist ideology that does not stand for equality among all citizens. From its inception, Zionism was, by its own understanding, a settler-colonial project, and it remains so to this day. The state of Israel was founded with the intent of expelling the indigenous native population and seizing their land. It inherently embodies an expansionist drive, bringing war and chaos to the entire region (Lebanon, Syria,

etc.). We reject both so-called “right-wing Zionism” and “left-wing Zionism,” as both rest on the same principles.

Zionist ideology has led Israel to displace people, steal land, deny access to fields and water, build walls, and commit genocide against the Palestinian people. The extremist government of Israel continues its path of colonizing Palestine and establishing its apartheid system with the support of the USA and the EU.

We, the undersigned, stand for a solution that guarantees equal rights to all people in the territory between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, regardless of nationality or religion. In accordance with UN Resolution 194, the right of return applies to displaced persons and their descendants.

We, the undersigned, assert that it is not anti-Semitic to point out the systematic racial discrimination by the state of Israel, that it is not anti-Semitic to accuse Israel of settler colonialism, apartheid, ethnic cleansing and genocide and that it is not anti-Semitic to call for boycott, divestment, and sanctions against Israel as common, non-violent forms of political protest.

We, the undersigned, call upon the Austrian Federal Government to advocate for an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and the West Bank, an immediate halt to all arms deliveries to Israel, an end to all cooperation—especially in the military, security, and surveillance technology sectors—that enables Israel to continue its apartheid policies, as well as the immediate termination of the EU Association Agreement. Israel must be compelled to immediately end its war and genocide against the Palestinian people, any form of displacement, occupation, and land theft. Those responsible for crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide must be held accountable.

We, the undersigned, assert that Israel does not protect Jews; rather, it is the duty of all states worldwide to create a climate in which racism—including anti-Semitism—has no ground, and all people can live in safety.

Judaism does not equal Zionism!