

BALFOUR CENTENARY

BRITAIN'S BROKEN PROMISE TIME FOR A NEW APPROACH

METHODIST CENTRAL HALL WESTMINSTER
TUESDAY 31 OCTOBER 2017
6.30-8.30PM

Please join us at this unique event marking the centenary of the Balfour Declaration. In words, film and music, it will acknowledge Britain's historic responsibilities in the Middle East. It will offer an opportunity to commit ourselves to support Palestinians and Israelis in building a peaceful future based on equal rights for all.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Buy tickets through balfourproject.org or eventbrite.co.uk. (£12; £8 for over 60s; £5 for students, unemployed). Tickets cannot be bought at Central Hall.

Help raise £9,000 needed from ticket sales and donations to cover the costs of the event (balfourproject.org/donate/)

Spread the word among your friends and networks.

Sign up for further information at balfourproject.org

SPEAKERS INCLUDE:

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC
Principal, Mansfield College, Oxford University;
Rt Hon Tom Brake MP; Richard Burden MP
Rt Revd Declan Lang, Roman Catholic Bishop of Clifton
Sir Vincent Fean, former UK Consul-General, Jerusalem
Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Anglican Bishop of Southwark
Rabbi Danny Rich, Senior Rabbi, Liberal Judaism
Layla Moran MP; Dr Philippa Whitford MP
Dr Imad Karam, award-winning film-maker

Music by
Chai for All seven-piece band



BRITAIN'S BROKEN PROMISE

The 1917 Balfour Declaration was a first step towards the creation of a sanctuary for a persecuted people, the Jews.

It was also the start of a process which has rendered Palestinians stateless, living under occupation in their own land, in refugee camps, or scattered throughout the world.

CONTRADICTORY PROMISES

The Declaration pledged Britain's support for a 'national home' in Palestine for the Jewish people on the understanding that the rights of 'existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine' would not be prejudiced. The failure to uphold this second clause, for which Britain bears much responsibility, has caused conflict between Palestinians and Israelis ever since.

This was just one of Britain's contradictory promises during the First World War. After the War we secured a mandate from the League of Nations which included a 'sacred trust' to prepare the people of Palestine for independence. But in the end Britain walked away.

TIME FOR A NEW APPROACH

The ensuing suffering and destruction in Israel, Palestine and neighbouring countries have been allowed to continue far too long.

The British Government recognises the right of both Israelis and Palestinians to self-determination. Israelis have achieved this. Now is the time to help Palestinians achieve this, in cooperation with both peoples and the rest of the international community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND COMMITMENT

It will mean committing ourselves to work for peace with justice in the region on the basis of equal rights for both Israelis and Palestinians. It entails upholding international law, including the Geneva Conventions, without fear or favour. This is a huge, long-term challenge. Governments will only take it on if their citizens do so first. If Britain gives a lead, others will follow.

This Centenary event is an opportunity to acknowledge Britain's legacy, consider our individual and collective responses, and make ourselves heard.



**Balfour
Project**

Contributing to justice,
peace and reconciliation
in the Middle East

Patrons: Rt Hon Tom Brake MP, Rt Revd Christopher Chessun,
Baroness Morris of Bolton, Dr Philippa Whitford MP,
Rt Revd Graham James, Rt Revd Declan Lang
Scottish Charitable, Organisation no. SC047090



Buy tickets