

**The Balfour Project invites you to join us in an**

## **Act of Acknowledgement and Commitment**

One hundred years ago the Foreign Secretary, Arthur Balfour, promised British Government support for the 'establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people'.

The declaration contained a significant caveat: '...it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities...'

Soon after, Britain obtained the League of Nations Mandate for Palestine, thereby accepting a 'sacred trust' to bring its peoples to independence.

Under British rule, successive governments largely honoured the promise to the Jewish people, but reneged on the promise to the Arab majority.

This and other broken promises exacerbated division and sparked recurrent conflict.

In 1948 Britain gave up the struggle to contain the conflict, and walked away.

Today the Jews, who have been persecuted grievously in Europe over the centuries, have a sanctuary and an internationally-recognised State.

But the Palestinians are stateless, oppressed in their own land, refugees in neighbouring countries or scattered throughout the world.

We, as British citizens, acknowledge that Britain bears much responsibility. We failed to treat all sides fairly.

We profoundly regret the immense suffering this has caused across the Middle East.

We humbly commit ourselves to

- continue informing the people of Britain about our historical responsibilities in the Middle East.
- support Palestinians and Israelis in building a peaceful future based on equal rights, justice and security for all.
- work for the recognition by the British Government of Palestine as a state.

We welcome everyone who will join us in this mission.