

Training Programme

BALFOUR PROJECT

PEACE ADVOCACY

FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22



This training programme sets out knowledge-based and skills-based workshops for the Balfour Project Peace Advocacy Fellowship Programme 2021-22, including the bios of the facilitators who will run those workshops. We hope there will be other workshops in addition to those listed here.

The creation and termination of the British Mandate, and state recognition in International Law John McHugo, historian and trustee of the Balfour Project

Autumn Semester

In this workshop, we will establish a basis of history and international law. We will discuss the creation of the Mandate - key legal texts; International Law considerations at the time; the concept of self-determination; considerations concerning occupied territory (1917-23/4); the termination of the Mandate and the creation of Israel.

We will also discuss the case for Britain recognising Palestine as a sovereign State today, the creation and recognition of states, and recognition of Palestine - reasons for and against.

Speaker bio: John McHugo is the trustee of the Balfour Project overseeing the Peace Advocacy Fellowship programme. He is the author of *A Concise History of the Arabs*, *Syria: A Recent History*, and *A Concise History of Sunnis and Shi'is*. After studying Arabic and Islamic studies at Oxford and the American University in Cairo, he had a legal career largely involving countries in the Middle East and which included work on two international boundary disputes. He is the author of an international law analysis of UN Resolution 242 that was cited before the ICJ in the proceedings for its 2004 advisory opinion on *The Wall*. He is also a board member of CAABU, the Council for Arab British Understanding.



Dialogue and Workshop: The Importance of our Faith Traditions to the Holy Land Dialogue Jane Clements MBE, Rabbi Warren Elf, Sadia Akram (FODIP)

Autumn Semester

We know the UK plays a huge role in the field of inter religious and cross-communal relations. This means that we are more aware of potentially damaging situations but we do have the infrastructure to address the issues. Currently, there is concern at the recent rise in antisemitism and islamophobia, and racial intolerance in general. The situation in Palestine/Israel also impacts communities here. Community leaders, many of whom enjoy good relationships locally, find that the subject of the Middle East is contentious and polarising. This workshop will explore approaches to the Palestine/Israel situation, especially from religious perspectives, and consider how to enable constructive dialogue. Drawing on reasons for the prominence of this emotive topic, we will also consider the difficulties of discussion with peers and the wider community, and hear a range of narratives and perspectives.

Speakers bios:

Dr Jane Clements (MBE) - Co-Chair FODIP

Dr Jane Clements has a background in Religious Education, History and interfaith work, specialising first in Islam and then in Judaism. She has a first degree in Theology, an MA in Hebrew and Jewish Studies and a PhD in Holocaust Education. Jane worked in various roles for the Council of Christians and Jews for 20 years, including as Director, until December 2016. In 2008 she founded the Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine (FODIP) to enable positive and sensitive conversations in the UK on the Israeli/Palestinian situation, and now works as a consultant on related matters. She is a co-Chair. Jane is a former trustee to the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust and a member of the Anglican-Jewish Commission. She was awarded the Hubert Walter Award for Interfaith Relations by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 2017 and an MBE for her contribution to inter faith and social cohesion in 2020.



Speakers bios continued:

Rabbi Warren Elf (MBE) – Co-Chair, FODIP

Warren has been Director for the Faith Network for Manchester, employed by them since December 2016. He was also a founding trustee of FN4M and treasurer for 12 years before taking up this role. Warren is also a part-time freelance Rabbi, working with Southend and District Reform Synagogue (since 2001) and Liverpool Reform Synagogue for the last five years. Rabbi Elf has previously worked as a Maths Teacher, at schools in Barnet and Bury. He was also a Youth and Community Worker, Student Chaplain and Rabbi working with three Reform synagogues and Reform Judaism in the UK. He has a passion for interfaith work, community cohesion and conflict resolution with many years' experience developing positive relations between a range of different groups and communities. Warren was one of the founding trustees of the Forum for Discussion of Israel and Palestine (FODIP) and has participated in or co-led all of their Study Tours to Israel and Palestine. He has also been involved in many other FODIP projects and related work. Warren was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2019 New Year's Honours list for his services to communities in Manchester, with special regard for interfaith and community cohesion work.



Sadia Akram – Programme Director, FODIP

Sadia's focus in recent projects with FODIP has been for women and young people. Sadia was recently the recipient of the national BEDSA award for bringing Jewish and Muslim women together through sports. Her previous roles have focussed on managing community related projects and implementing engagement techniques with communities. Sadia is also a practitioner on building good relations and a Director for Good Relations Oldham – a programme to develop better relations between different communities across the North West. Sadia holds accreditation in Conflict Awareness and Resolution, Mediation and Philosophical Enquiry.



Sadia has an extensive background of working in civic and social organisation, having worked with local housing and interfaith bodies in the Manchester area for over 10 years. She also has post graduate qualifications in Housing Practice and Policy and teaching English as a foreign language.

How does the British government make decisions on ME policy?

Sir Vincent Fean, chairman of the Balfour Project

Autumn Semester

Vincent Fean will draw on his experience as Consul-General, Jerusalem and working in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London to discuss

(1) how the machinery of Government works in relation to the Israel/Palestine conflict; (2) the relationship between the diplomatic missions in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, and how they both relate to FCDO in London; (3) the roles of the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Middle East Minister and senior civil servants; (4) interaction with the Israeli Government and London Embassy, and with the PLO/Palestinian Authority and London Mission; (6) the relevance of international law in determining policy; and parliament and the media.

We will also consider the following questions: Does the British Government operate an independent policy, and what influences policy? How does US policy affect the British Government attitude? Now that the U.K. is outside the EU, which European countries does FCDO consult? Does U.K. policy reflect stated British/universal values, and do those values and British interests converge or diverge? Does Parliament matter in this context? The British Government does not talk to Hamas. Should it? How can a charity like the Balfour Project influence Government policy? How can the Balfour Project reach and inform young people?

Recommended reading: Please read Sir Jeremy Greenstock's briefing from last year's fellowship. Sir Jeremy is a retired diplomat – an Arabic speaker, he was Ambassador to the United Nations, Ambassador to Egypt, and Director (Middle East) in the FCO. His talk to Peace Advocacy Fellows earlier this year is illuminating.

Speaker bio: Sir Vincent Fean is Chair of Trustees of the Balfour Project.

A member of the British Diplomatic Service (DS) 1975-2014, his last post was as Consul-General, Jerusalem (2010-14), responsible locally for British Government relations with the Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories – what Vincent calls Palestine. Before Jerusalem, he was Ambassador to Libya, and previously High Commissioner to Malta. He studied Arabic in the DS.



Vincent advocates equal rights for Israelis and Palestinians, and British Government recognition of the state of Palestine alongside Israel on pre-June 1967 lines, consistent with the aims of the Balfour Project. He is also a Patron of the Britain Palestine Friendship and Twinning Network. He is secretary of an informal Cross Party Group on Palestine/Israel at Westminster.

Workshop: Awareness Raising and event planning
Diana Safieh, project coordinator of the Balfour Project

Autumn Semester

Learning how to identify your audience and how to address them appropriately is a key skill. Many of you will go on to roles where some element of fundraising or campaigning is required. You will be required to relay your message, be it an appeal for funding or an attempt to raise awareness, to some form of audience, i.e. donors, investors, beneficiaries, the public, etc.

We will discuss and learn event planning with an emphasis on online events, and start planning an event which will promote a discussion on one of the main questions our project will focus on.

Depending on the stage of events some of the fellows will be organising, we will plan our events in groups, amend and improve them, and make sure we are ready to maximise them for raising awareness on the chosen topic.

Speaker bio: **Diana Safieh** has been managing Operations and Events for multiple companies and charities for over 15 years. Diana has spent much of her life in the charity sector, as a fundraiser for humanitarian and development projects in Palestine. She has organised events attended by royalty, i.e. Queen Noor of Jordan, and has been invested as a member of the Order of St John for her contributions. Most recently she has been acting as coordinator for the Balfour Project. Previous to that, she was working with St John, fundraising for their hospitals and clinics in Jerusalem and Gaza.

Diana obtained a BA in Environment and Society from Kings College, London, then an MSc in Sustainable Development.



Zionism, Anti Semitism, BDS: Let's speak about the difficult issues
Matan Rosenstrauch, fellowship coordinator, the Balfour Project.

Autumn semester

One of the best ways to understand where we stand on the more difficult issues surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is to actually speak about them with other thinkers, and by doing so, challenge our own stances and views. One of the advantages of this fellowship is working with, and getting to know other fellows who come from diverse backgrounds, be it Jewish, Israeli, Muslim, Palestinian, British or from elsewhere.

In this facilitated session, we will bring ourselves with our values, stances, experiences and understandings, and place ourselves on a stances scale and, maybe, rethink our thoughts and confront ourselves: are we too "radical", or are we too "conformist"?

Speaker bio: **Matan Rosenstrauch** is a peace activist and a Hebrew teacher. He started his activism engagement in Jewish communities, coordinating the New Israel Fund project for the 50th year of the Occupation (Save Israel Stop the Occupation, and he helped to establish a South African Jewish pro-peace organisation called a Jewish Democratic Initiative.

After moving to London, he began consulting the Balfour Project and he currently coordinates the Peace Advocacy Fellowship Programme. He also works as an organiser for Meretz UK.

Matan was born in Israel, where he has his BA in Jewish History from Ben Gurion University and his MA in Development Studies from the Hebrew University. He teaches Hebrew at King's College Modern Language Centre and at the SOAS Language Centre.



Workshop: Writing skills
Tom Helm, staff opinion writer, The National Abu Dhabi.

Spring semester

In this workshop, we will look at the transition from academic to journalistic and blog writing. We will consider how the styles differ and how writers from both disciplines have defined 'good' and 'bad' writing. We will learn how to keep our sentences meaningful and short, and how to not be afraid of simplicity.

Each of the fellows will have to prepare a text he/she had written before, preferably on an issue related to his/her fellowship project. It can be an academic essay, but no longer than 1000 words. During the workshop, we will have time to work on our texts, modify and improve them, implementing some of the tools discussed in the workshop. Hopefully, we can send them to a journal and spread our ideas in the community of conflict resolution thinkers.

Speaker bio: **Thomas Helm** is an opinion writer at The National newspaper in Abu Dhabi. Before joining The National, he worked in the British parliament as a researcher at CMEC, a Middle East research council that connects the world of British politics with the MENA region. He graduated from SOAS in 2019 with a BA in Arabic and Persian. As well as London and Abu Dhabi, Thomas has lived and worked in Egypt and Iran.



What can we learn from Northern Ireland?

John Lyndon, CEO of ALLMEP Europe

Spring semester

We have very few examples of successful conflict resolution to draw upon. So while there are important differences between Northern Ireland and Israel/Palestine, there are also similarities, and lessons that can be drawn as we seek to further chances for a just and equitable outcome in the Middle East. **In this workshop we will explore:**

- > What role did the international community play in Northern Ireland?
- > How can diaspora dynamics be leveraged toward positive ends?
- > What sort of preparation is required civically and economically to strengthen the hand of peacemakers?
- > How can international mediators rebalance power dynamics and foster inclusivity so as to increase diplomacy's chances of success?

These are some of the questions we will attempt to answer in this comparative workshop that looks at how lessons learned in Northern Ireland might be applied in Israel/Palestine.

Speaker bio: John Lyndon is the Executive Director of the Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), the largest network of peacebuilding NGOs in Israel/Palestine. Growing up in Ireland, and being the beneficiary of both the Good Friday Agreement and the civil society initiatives that preceded it, John has brought some of those insights to his 12 years of work in Israel/Palestine. A Visiting Fellow at King's College London's Middle East Programme, John has delivered lectures that draw upon the parallels in Northern Ireland at Georgetown University Doha, the London School of Economics, Sciences Po Paris, and Tel Aviv University.



Workshop: Public Speaking skills

Peggy Forrel, director of Advocality

Spring Semester

This workshop is designed to give you insights and techniques, so you can be a memorable and impactful speaker. You will identify the qualities you want to have as a communicator, and the obstacles to achieving them. Understanding these will bring you to an understanding of stress; what it is and how to use it to counteract any manifestations of nerves. During the workshop, you will present twice, giving you an opportunity to apply your insights. You will also learn the basics of good vocal skills. Each participant receives individual, as well as group, feedback.

Speaker bio: Peggy Forell works through her consultancy Advocality. She has been working with people here and abroad for over 25 years. Her clients range from global corporate firms to graduate students preparing for the world of work. For ten years or more, she has been closely associated with organisations focussing on the challenges in Israel/Palestine. Currently she serves on the Board of Advisors for Solutions Not Sides, and has travelled out to the region to work with them and some of their partners numerous times.



Differentiation Policies in the EU: Israel and the OPTs

Hugh Lovatt, policy fellow at ECFR

Spring semester

The European Union is a key player in international efforts to find peace between Israelis and Palestinians – although its actions have often attracted criticism. Given its deep relations with both Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA), the EU has considerable leverage which it could deploy to advance peace – although it has often proven reluctant to do so. Despite being a firm supporter of the Oslo peace process and two-state solution, there are however signs that developments on the ground may force a gradual policy shift. Please read this before the workshop. This workshop will explore:

- > Where does EU policy stand on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and how may this evolve?
- > What are the policy tools at the EU's disposal to support peace-making efforts?
- > How does European policymaking work? And what is the impact of the UK's departure from the EU?
- > How can peace advocates effectively engage with European policymakers? What should they be advocating?
- > What are differentiation policies, what are their barriers and how can they be promoted in EU countries?

Speaker bio: Hugh Lovatt is a policy fellow with the Middle East and North Africa programme at the European Council on Foreign Relations. Since joining ECFR, Lovatt has focused extensively on EU policy towards the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP), domestic Palestinian politics, and Israeli regional policy. Lovatt co-led a 2016 track-II initiative to draft an updated set of final status parameters, and has worked to advance the concept of EU Differentiation, which was enshrined in UN Security Council Resolution 2334. Lovatt also co-developed an innovative online project mapping Palestinian politics. Lovatt is Chairman of the Brussels-based European Middle East Project (EuMEP)

