



Contributing to justice, peace and reconciliation in the Middle East

[www.balfourproject.org](http://www.balfourproject.org)

# London



*Westminster Bridge and House of Parliament, London.*

No. 832.



JERUSALEM

# *the Balfour Project is an initiative to.....*

- **Understand** what was done in our name and face the consequences honestly.
- **Educate** *‘few in Britain know of our historic role in the conflict and so it is important to raise awareness of Britain’s moral responsibility to those in the region and the symbolic power that recognition would bring.’ Ed Pickthall Advocacy Peace Fellow 2020*
- **Acknowledge** that whilst a homeland for the Jewish people has been achieved, the [sacred trust](#) to bring Palestine to independence has not.
- **Campaign** for Britain to take effective action to promote justice, security and peace for both peoples, including recognition by Britain of Palestine as a sovereign state.

The ideas of IofC and the friendships arising from it played a significant role in the origins and development of the Balfour Project

**‘The art of friendship’ is a precious concept that I learnt from MRA/Initiatives of Change.**

In 1945 Mohammad Fadhel Jamali signed the United Nations charter on behalf of Iraq. There he met Frank Buchman, Initiator of MRA, and their friendship continued until Buchman died.

Jamali’s eldest son was brain damaged by measles at age 5 years, and was cared for in Edinburgh until he died at 72 . We got to know the family, and for three generations we have enjoyed their friendship.

## **Never the same since .....**

In 2008 the Jamali family invited us for a family holiday in Jordan. My husband and I both wondered – ‘Is now the time to visit Israel and Palestine?’

Just before setting off, a Palestinian friend from Edinburgh gave us a list of her family and close friends. We met almost all and made friends in Israel too. Though reluctant to go, we learned so much, and have never been the same since!

## To my shame .....

While in Jordan, we saw an exhibition on the [‘McMahon–Hussein correspondence’](#) – In 1915, Britain offered Sharif Hussein an independent Arab state, including Palestine. To my shame, I had never heard of this, nor the [Anglo French Declaration](#) in 1918, offering independence to countries freed from Ottoman rule.

**By now we were feeling very uneasy – surely Britain has something to acknowledge.**



## **unexpectedly struck by the question.....**

I was unexpectedly struck by the question, 'How will Britain mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration?'

What do you do with a question that has apparently come out of the blue?

I asked many people, until two said, 'We'll work with you!' And so the '[Balfour Project](#)' was born.

# ***What impact does the Balfour Project have?***

- Concentrates on education and advocacy.
- **web site** which is high in Google searches.

## ***Dear Balfour Project team***

*I wanted to thank you on behalf of all **Wikipedia editors** for your efforts to broaden and deepen the world's understanding of the [Balfour] Declaration.....*

- major conference in London to mark the [Centenary of the Balfour Declaration](#) attracted 1200 people.

# Current activity

- **Conferences.**

**Jerusalem: From Past Divisions to a Shared Future?**

**Israel/Palestine: in search of the rule of law**

- **Peace advocacy Fellows**

- **Monthly Webinars**

**Rajmohan Gandhi, *Historian, author and biographer of his grandfather, Mahatma Gandhi:***

The Balfour Project is an inspiring, inclusive and courageous exercise to stir a nation's thinking. Citizens in other lands will draw confidence from it to confront their own history and help shape their future.

**Avi Shlaim, *Emeritus Professor of International Relations, Oxford University***

The Balfour Project is an admirable attempt to educate the British public about Britain's historic responsibility for the ongoing conflict in Israel-Palestine.

**Andrew McLellan CBE *former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland***

We cannot make realistic judgments about the wisdom or morality of a Cabinet Minister a century ago. But we certainly can make judgments about the consequences today of the Balfour Declaration.

# Britain in Palestine, 1917-1948

Watch the 18 minute film