

Balfour Project

PEACE ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24



This training programme sets out knowledge-based and skills-based workshops for the Balfour Project Peace Advocacy Fellowship Programme 2023-4, including the bios of the facilitators who will run those workshops. The exact dates will be coordinated with the selected fellows.

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, online

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 a 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.



The Jewish community's politics and divisions regarding Israel

Hannah Weisfeld, Director and Founder of Yachad

Autumn semester, online

In this session, we will get a close-up view from Hannah, who founded Yachad (the British version of J-Street), and hear first-hand about Yachad's work both within the Jewish community and UK parliament. We will learn why the Jewish community's views regarding Israel matter, and how opinions with the community vary, particularly when it comes to the next generation. We'll discuss some of the complex political issues the organisation navigates, and how they impact its work in parliament and the wider Jewish community.

A similar session with a representative of the Palestinian diaspora will take place as well.

Speakers bios: Hannah is the director and a founder of Yachad which was established in May 2011. She grew up in London and in her teens and early twenties was very involved in the Zionist youth movement Habonim Dror, and served as its education director for two years on completion of her undergraduate degree. She has campaigned professionally on a wide range of issues including climate change, the conflict in Darfur and fair-trade. She previously chaired the Jewish Social Action Forum for two years, bringing together leading Jewish communal organisations to develop the community's social action agenda and also worked as a consultant for the Pears Foundation.

She has spent time living and working in Israel and Malawi and holds a BA in English Literature from Sussex University and MSc in Global Politics from the London School of Economics.



How does the British government make decisions on ME policy?

Sir Vincent Fean, trustee of the Balfour Project

Autumn semester, online

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;
- > **5** 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.



Project planning

Matan Rosenstrauch, fellowship coordinator, the Balfour Project.

Autumn semester, weekend retreat

We might have creative ideas about what we want to do to bring about a change, but the adequate way to plan a project is to think about what we want to change. We need to assess the problems and barriers to change, and assess our long-term, mid-term and short-term objectives to create a wider picture of how our project is part of a much bigger work done by many actors in civil society and in government. We will use the Problems Tree and the Logframe model, a simpler version of the Theory of Change model, for this assessment. We will then brainstorm what projects you can produce during the year long fellowship programme. We will introduce you to a project management template to help you with your tasks and deadlines so that your successful project can be launched at the end of the Fellowship.

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 the SOAS Language Centre.

He also works as an organiser for Meretz UK, and as an advocacy officer for the Arab Centre for Progress, promoting the model of confederation, a Palestinian-Israeli Union.



The Psychology and narratives of societies in conflict
Dr Nimrod Rosler, Senior Lecturer at Tel Aviv University

Spring semester, online

In this online workshop, we will be educated about the psychology and narratives of societies in conflict by Dr Nimrod Rosler. Drawing on his own research, Dr Rosler will reflect on the psychological implications of the Israel-Palestine situation and how this impacts social identification, political beliefs and attitudes towards reconciliation.

Speaker bio: Dr Nimrod Rosler is a senior lecturer, head of the international program in Conflict Resolution and Mediation at Tel Aviv University and leads the *Peace Index* national surveys project. His studies deal with psychological and social aspects of political conflicts and their resolution, while focusing on gender, emotions, leadership, peace processes and their integration in the studies of conflicts. He published his work in books and journals, such as *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research* and *Political Psychology*.



Caabu's work in parliament
Chris Doyle and Joseph Willits of Caabu

Spring semester, hybrid

In this workshop, Chris Doyle, Director of Caabu, and Joseph Willits, Caabu's Parliamentary and Events Officer, will talk to Fellows about the organisations' work, involvement with British parliamentarians and the delegations they run to the region.

Caabu is a not-for-profit cross-party organisation whose mission is to work for a British Middle East policy that promotes conflict resolution, human rights and civil society in the Arab world through informed debate and mutual understanding. Caabu is one of the most active NGOs working on the Middle East in the British parliament since its establishment in 1967.



Workshop: Public Speaking skills
Peggy Forrel, director of Advocacy

Spring semester, in person workshops day

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.



Please turn to see more training programmes

Workshop: Awareness raising and event planning

Diana Safieh, project coordinator of the Balfour Project

Autumn semester, weekend retreat

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.



Workshop: Writing skills

Layla Maghribi, senior correspondent, The National Abu Dhabi

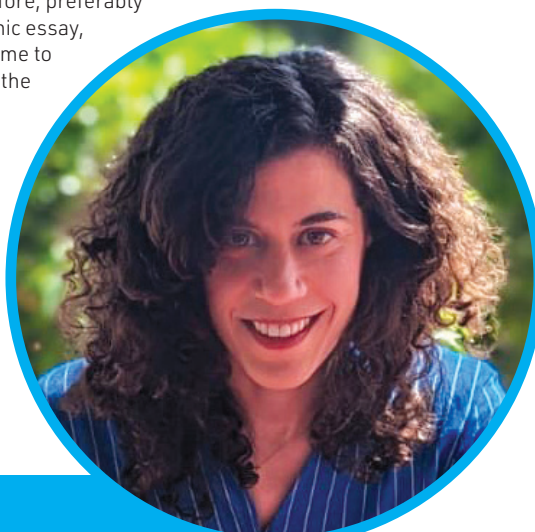
Spring semester, in person workshops day

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: Layla joined The National in early 2021 during the UK's third lockdown of the coronavirus pandemic. She returned to London after many years spent writing and producing features on the Middle East for media outlets such as CNN and Reuters.

She speaks fluent Arabic, read European history and Italian at University College London, and has a postgraduate degree in Law. She has a special interest in social issues affecting Arab communities, particularly in relation to culture, immigration, and mental health.



For more information about the Balfour Project, our fellows and alumni and last year's fellowship projects see www.balfourproject.org.

Or click [here](#) to find out more about

The Balfour Project Peace Advocacy Fellowship 2023-24 for postgraduates/final year undergraduates in the UK. The fellowship is open to students interested in peace education, advocacy and promoting a recognition of Palestine alongside Israel and the promotion of equal rights for all.