

PWG MISSION STATEMENT

The Policy Working Group (PWG) is an Israeli advocacy team comprising activists from various professional backgrounds, including former ambassadors, senior academics, human rights defenders, and political analysts with extensive experience in public diplomacy and international advocacy. The PWG does not engage in fundraising and operates on a voluntary and independent basis. It is dedicated to achieving peace between Israel and Palestine based on the universal values of equality, human rights, and the rule of law. The PWG operates through direct appeals to foreign governments and parliaments. We also engage with political influencers, academic institutions, and media, as well as civil society and other international organizations. We partner with Palestinian counterparts to advance shared objectives. Our members help shape public opinion through commentary and appearances in the Israeli and international media.

The PWG campaigns to halt Israel's expropriation of Palestinian lands and the expulsion of their inhabitants and to apply the principle of differentiation between Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) in all international dealings. We support implementation of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion of July 2024 on the illegality of the occupation and defend funding of Israeli and Palestinian human rights organizations. We regard UNSC Resolution 2334 as the basis for any future peace negotiations and see it as the linchpin of our advocacy work. We have actively promoted recognition of the State of Palestine for over a decade and welcome the UNGA's endorsement of the New York Declaration on the two-state solution and its action-oriented approach to resolving the conflict.

We condemn the Israeli Government's perversion of its legitimate struggle to uproot Hamas following the atrocities it committed on October 7 into a war against the Palestinian people, wreaking death and destruction in Gaza and unleashing unbridled violence in the West Bank. We consider accountability a pillar of international law. Accordingly, we support the International Criminal Court's inquiry into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity and call upon the international community to apply diplomatic measures to ensure Israel's compliance with international law. The PWG opposes the Israeli Government's ongoing entrenchment of the occupation through *de facto* annexation in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, including its tolerance of settler violence to achieve the forced displacement of Palestinian villagers, and rejects any plans to retain control of Gaza territory under the guise of security needs or for any other purpose.

Both the Jewish and the Palestinian people have an equal right to self-determination and sovereign statehood on the land between the river and the sea, and we support all UN resolutions that anchor this principle. We believe the most equitable solution is the establishment of the State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel based on the 1967 borders, thus fulfilling the national aspirations of both peoples. We consider the two-state paradigm vital to achieving security, prosperity, and peace in the region and reconciliation between its peoples.

In view of the increasing deterioration in human rights in the OPT as well as the Israeli Government's offensive against human rights defenders and its systematic drive to shrink the space open to criticism of its policies, the PWG stands by the defenders. We condemn the use of administrative and legislative measures to silence criticism, particularly on the part of Palestinian citizens of Israel, in violation of the principle of freedom of conscience stipulated in Israel's Declaration of Independence. We reject all measures designed to weaken the judiciary, which plays a critical role in upholding human rights and whose independence is the mainstay of a functioning democracy.

As the disparity between Israel and Palestine is too wide to enable the sides to achieve a peace accord on their own, we believe that the international community must play a critical role by creating the necessary diplomatic context and providing the parties with a multilateral platform to engage in viable negotiations with support from key regional states. We recognize that the dire humanitarian situation and vast destruction in Gaza require urgent attention; at the same time, we call on the international community to take a comprehensive approach to achieve a solution that addresses the national aspirations of the Palestinian people and considers the OPT as a whole. To this end, we strongly support recognition of the State of Palestine independent of the nature of relations between Israel and Palestine.

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"We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians." (Nelson Mandela, 1997)