

**Non-partisan education
on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

Information for donors



SOLUTIONS
NOT SIDES

*“Israel-Palestine needs to be presented
in an unbiased and balanced way.”*

Nicky Morgan, UK Education Secretary, 2015

“Being able to talk face to face with Israelis and Palestinians is hugely valuable for the students, they develop their knowledge and some find preconceptions and stereotypes challenged.”

Moseley School, Birmingham



The Problem: Impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in Europe

A rise in extremist movements that propagate the myth of an inevitable dichotomy between the 'Secular West' and the 'Muslim East' are drawing on the Israeli-Palestinian issue as a central focus of their recruitment strategies. These movements are emerging primarily through Islamist, far-left and far-right political actors. Members of the 'Occupy' movement are wearing the Palestinian scarf and raising the Palestinian flag at their rallies, members of the English Defence League, Pegida, and other far-right groups are raising the Israeli flag at their rallies and displaying placards expressing support for Israel, and Islamists are claiming that Israel is a continued project of Western (particularly American) colonialism, and that Muslims have a responsibility to remove the Jewish state and restore the Caliphate to the entire region and beyond.



The impact of these political movements and their distortion of the Israeli-Palestinian issue in Europe is threefold:

- A rise in anti-Jewish racism
- A rise in anti-Muslim racism
- An intensified risk of cumulative extremism between Islamists and the far-right



The **Solutions Not Sides Education Programme** for young people in schools, universities and community groups has developed since 2010 to counter extreme narratives on Israel-Palestine.

- The complexity of the conflict is confronted in a safe space
- Humanisation of Israelis and Palestinians occurs through meeting moderate young Israeli and Palestinian peace activists
- Understanding of both sides' narratives is realised
- Conspiracy theories about Israel, Islam, and international involvement are busted
- The myth that Muslims and Jews should inevitably be in conflict is debunked
- Thinking is shifted away from supporting a side, and towards seeking a solution
- A win-win approach to activism in order to achieve peace is promoted

SNS has now established a network of over 200 schools. These are mainly state schools, a few private schools, and several faith schools including Islamic, Jewish and Anglican schools. Youth and students from many community groups and universities have also engaged in the programme. The total number of participants so far is over 20,000.



Activities:

- Educational sessions for 15-18 year olds and 18-25 year-olds introducing a win-win approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict
- SNS-branded social media platforms with weekly, diverse news feeds for students
- Google Hangouts for follow-up discussion with Israelis and Palestinians
- An annual leadership course for university students
- Teacher and community leader training sessions and resources for dealing with this issue in schools

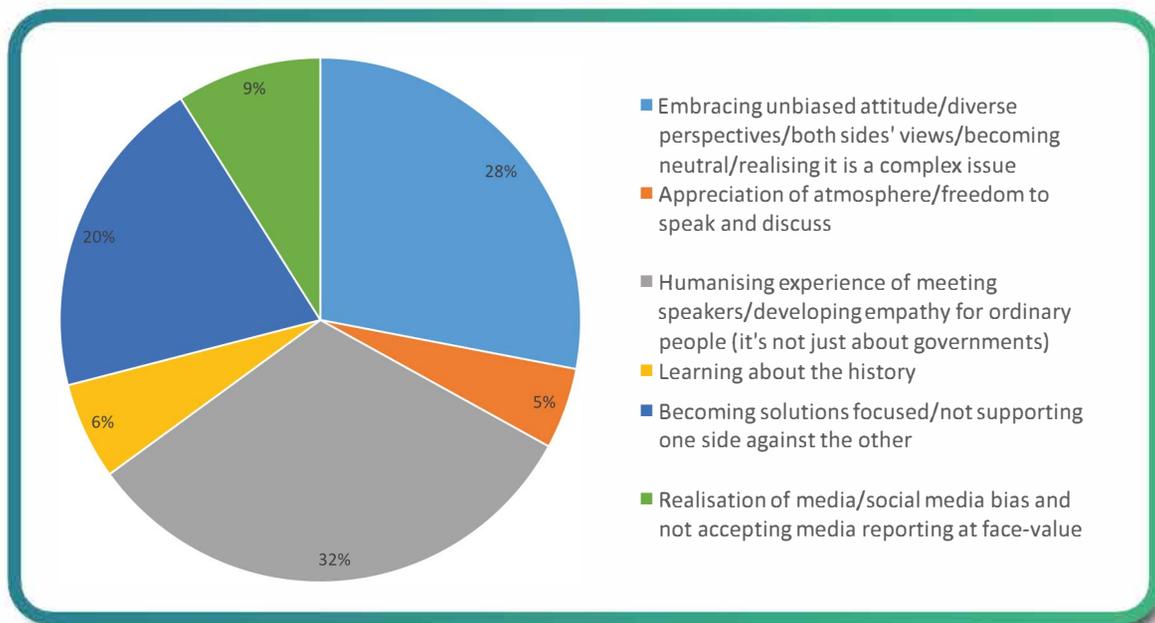
Development of the project:

Beginning with only 3 or 4 tours per year bringing Israeli and Palestinian speakers from trusted partner organisations to London and Birmingham, the project has expanded to reach all major cities in England, with expansion to Wales and Scotland now planned. The content and curriculum of the sessions have been developed with the input of schoolteachers and community leaders from the three Abrahamic faiths, and the programme has the support and endorsement of a large variety of community organisations, conflict resolution organisations, schools, as well as the Department of Communities and Local Governments, among others. It also has a distinguished and communally representative board of advisors that includes teachers, community leaders and local government representatives.

Outcomes in detail:

- Quantitative: At least 10,000 total participants aged 15-25 across 15 of the UK's major towns and cities each academic year
- Qualitative: A reduction in anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim, anti-Israel and anti-Palestine attitudes and behaviour among students in educational institutions and community groups where we work

Impact on students in terms of programme goals according to recent evaluation:



**Thank you for your time and consideration. If you would like to support this project, please contact Sharon Booth:
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"Not simply pro-Israel or pro-Palestine, but pro-Solution"

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