

A Different Jewish Voice (Een Ander Joods Geluid)

Our mission

"A Different Jewish Voice" is born out of a deeply felt concern and dissatisfaction by parts of the Jewish Dutch community about the manner of debate and the resulting public opinion regarding the policies of the Israeli government vis a vis the question of Palestine. There is a noticeable tendency among Jews to see criticism of Israel as equivalent to undermining the State of Israel. Showing any understanding for the Palestinian position is condemned as an anti-Israel position. As a result, many members of the Jewish community either remain silent or adopt an "Israel, right or wrong" attitude, supporting unconditionally the Israeli (government) policy.

A Different Jewish Voice

wants to break the taboo which inhibits Jews from expressing doubts about Israeli policies and wants a change the attitude which blocks out criticism from outside the Jewish community. A Different Jewish Voice wants to create an atmosphere in which criticism is no longer synonymous with being "against Israel".

A Different Jewish Voice

is a group of concerned Jews who aim to contribute towards the - seemingly impossible - task of achieving peace in the Middle East. A Different Jewish Voice does not question Israel's right to exist but at the same time wants to stimulate public debate and encouraging dissenting points of view regarding the State of Israel and the Occupied Territories. It is because of our solidarity with the State of Israel and our concern for its continued existence, that An Other Jewish Voice supports peace initiatives based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: equality, tolerance and humanity.

A Different Jewish Voice stands for:

- Dialogue and mutual respect instead of violence and misuse of power
- Equal rights and opportunities for all ethnic and religious groups
- Withdrawal from all Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Gaza and the recognition of the pre- 1967 borders
- The realization of a Palestinian state beside the State of Israel
- Jerusalem as capital of both states
- a just solution for the problem of Palestinian refugees. To achieve this Israel must take responsibility for her part in the creation of this problem. Only then can negotiations succeed in defining how Israel can contribute to righting this wrong without endangering her own existence.

A Different Jewish Voice

- aims to influence the public opinion and government policies by organising public awareness campaigns and by lobbying politicians and other relevant decision makers
- supports Israeli peace and human rights organisations who are working to achieve the above mentioned goals will actively network with kindred groups internationally.

Background

At the end of 2000, a group of Dutch Jews decided to publicly express their indignation about the excessive Israeli response to the second Intifada, by publishing a statement with the names of several hundred signatories in major Dutch newspapers. This initiative received overwhelming public support and media coverage and resulted in a public meeting on January 14, 2001. A committee was formed to propagate the goals of Another Jewish Voice and to initiate further activities.