Palestine: The Right of Return

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World YWCA

<http://ywca.dev.messaggio.eu.com/YWCA-News/World-YWCA-and-Member-Associations-News/Palestine-The-Right-of-Return>

The YWCA of Palestine has released a statement calling for [the Right of Return](http://www.aljazeera.com/photo_galleries/middleeast/201092792844223326.html) to be recognised.  The right of return polarises the seemingly intractable conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis like no other issue. For most Palestinians the right of return for the up to six million refugees who are ancestors of those who made the exodus from Palestine that followed the creation of Israel in 1948 is an absolute. For Israeli officials - whose historians dispute the figure of six million and also the reason for the mass exodus - the issue is existential. The World YWCA fully supports the Right of Return for Palestinians.

The fabric of Palestinian lives was ripped apart between 1947-1949 when over 750,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes and lands. War, genocide, military rule, and terror have existed ever since. UNWRA has registered now over 4.8 million refugees. Many more are unregistered and living now in other countries and many others are internally displaced within Israel or Palestine as the ongoing destruction of villages, homes, and lives continues under settler colonisation. During the nine months of the peace negotiations this past year 13,851 new housing units were designated including the construction of a whole new settlement. The collapse of the “peace process” that began with the Oslo Accords includes 20 years of ongoing settlement colonization and the building of the “Separation barrier” or Wall. The fabric is ripped but it is also being mended through creative acts of nonviolent resistance like the over 15,000 Palestinians and their supporters who marched to the destroyed village of Lubya to reclaim it.

The YWCA of Palestine through its new advocacy project The *Fabric of Our Lives* under our Rights of Women for Peace, Security and Dignity is honouring its women elders and their stories of dispossession and courage. We believe that [the Right of Return](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/zarefa-ali/post_4596_b_3024339.html) is also a sacred right and that there can be no peace without it. It is a basic right derived from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in all international and regional covenants. It has no statute of limitation and cannot be extinguished by a peace treaty or the establishment of a state. UN General Assembly Resolution 194 resolves that “the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property which, under principles of international law or in equity, should be made good by the governments or authorities responsible.” The YWCA Movement affirmed this right.

As part of their continued efforts the YWCA  of Palestine will host an international conference on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in Palestine. Full details can be found on the official [YWCA of Palestine website.](http://www.ywca-palestine.org/viewer.php?ID=277)

Click below to read the Full Statement- The Right of Return

[The Right of Return Alert - YWCA of Palestine.pdf](http://ywca.dev.messaggio.eu.com/content/download/70615/863952/file/The%20Right%20of%20Return%20Alert%20-%20YWCA%20of%20Palestine.pdf) 700.95 kB