



**A SUMMARY OF MEND'S
GUIDE TO FACILITATING
DISCUSSIONS ABOUT**

PALESTINE

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ENSURING A RESPECTFUL SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

Schools should foster a respectful atmosphere where students can freely express their views and engage in discussions about the ongoing situation in Palestine and Israel. It's essential to promote democratic values by encouraging diverse opinions and allowing misunderstandings to be clarified.



ENCOURAGING POSITIVE EXPRESSIONS

Small expressions of solidarity, such as wearing pins or displaying flags, can empower students and facilitate healthy discussions. Artistic activities and fundraising for humanitarian aid charities related to Palestine provide creative outlets for students to express their support. These acts of Solidarity with an oppressed people should not be conflated with antisemitism.



FACILITATING INFORMED DISCUSSIONS

To promote informed discussions about the Palestine-Israel situation, schools can organise structured debates or open forums. It's important to encourage understanding of differing viewpoints and create a safe space for students to express themselves respectfully



UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING SENSITIVITIES

Recognising the sensitivities of Muslim and Jewish students is crucial. Muslim students may hesitate to participate due to the PREVENT strategy's chilling effect, Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian hate, while Jewish students may experience misconceptions and antisemitism. Educators should ensure a supportive environment for all students to express their views without fear of prejudice.



UPHOLDING NON-PARTISANSHIP AND ACCURACY

Schools should provide accurate information to students about the Palestinian-Israeli situation, addressing human rights violations and breaches of international law. Avoiding biased organisations and focusing on imparting objective knowledge is essential to maintaining non-partisanship.



ENCOURAGING DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT

True political neutrality involves allowing all perspectives to be heard while safeguarding against abusive rhetoric. Schools should encourage healthy democratic engagement, nurturing active and informed citizens.