

Local Round Table Discussion on Palestine and Israel



Date: May 22nd, 7:00pm
Location: St. Paul's University, room 103
See www.nowar-paix.ca for details and updates

Hosted by the Network to Oppose War and Racism/
Pacte contre l'agression, l'intolérance et la xenophobie,
(NOWAR-PAIX)

This is a round table discussion for groups and individuals working on anti-war, anti-racism, human rights, democracy and civil liberty issues within the context of Palestine and Israel. The idea is to lay out the work that is being done by various groups, and explore the potential for possible collaboration and cooperation.

This is not in any way meant to imply that the work that is being done is inadequate or inappropriate, nor to impinge on the mandate of existing groups, but rather to create a safe place for discussion of strategies and ideas.

NOWAR-PAIX does not have any desire or mandate to take on a central role in this work; it is simply our desire to facilitate and promote greater awareness and political action in support of peace and justice in the Middle East.

The round table meeting will be based on broad anti-war, anti-racism, anti-terrorism, and pro-democracy principles that we can come together under. NOWAR-PAIX is founded on these principles, and the understanding that "terrorism" includes state terrorism, and that racism includes anti-Jewish as well as anti-Arab discrimination.

We also ask all participating groups to prepare: A brief description of your structure (example: NGO, campus group, coalition, grass roots group, etc.); What you are working on, including both specific initiatives and the issues you focus on; What, if any, activities have you planned or would like to plan for June 5th

NOWAR-PAIX History:

The NOWAR/PAIX was created after Sept 11th 2001, the rush to war abroad, the racist backlash and the drastic open erosion of civil liberties in the war at home. The network is composed of concerned citizens and organizations in Ottawa/Hull area who oppose the war being waged by under the pretext of fighting terror. We have since worked on a broad range of issues, driven by the desire and proposals of network members. We have had conferences and actions, we organize and distribute literature and under publicized information, and we have set up infrastructure for network members to work together.

Proposed Format:

- 1 Introductions
- 2 Agenda review
- 3 Overview of the current situation
- 4 Moment of silence for the dead, wounded and imprisoned
- 5 Go-round: What each group/person has been doing and what is the goal/strategy behind it? (BRIEF interventions)
- 6 Open discussion: What needs to happen and how can it be done?
- 7 Conclusions and strategic recommendations
- 8 Go-round: evaluation and next steps