



# Invest in Two States

Economic Development and Cooperation for Peace

## Program Kit

To bring about Israeli-Palestinian peace, we have to invest—not divest—in Israel, in a future Palestinian state, and in a two-state resolution. While sampling fair trade olive oil from Palestinian and Israeli groves, attendees will dig a little deeper into questions of peace and economic development. Why *invest* in Israel and a Palestinian state? How does Palestinian economic development relate to achieving a two-state solution and real peace in the Middle East? Which comes first, political peace or economic development? This kit will give you all the tools you need for a fun, thought-provoking, and delicious event.

**Tip:** Order the olive oil ASAP at <http://www.peaceoil.net>!

### Kit Contents

- Program Guide for Facilitators
- Materials for the Eight Questions Circuit
- Sample Flyer and Email

### Event Outline

- Welcome
- “Eight Questions Circuit”
- Closing

## Guide to Olive Oil



*Here are some tips on getting and using Palestinian and Israeli fair trade olive oil. Peace Oil, Palestinian extra virgin olive oil, is made by farmers using traditional methods of the region without artificial pesticides and fertilizers. Supplied by three fair trade groups, two Israeli and one Palestinian, Peace Oil encourages grass-roots cooperation, building bridges between the two peoples.*

### Getting the Olive Oil

Order online at:

<http://www.peaceoil.net/>

### Dipping and Dressing

Dip fresh bread into a shallow bowl of olive oil with black pepper or *za'atar* (thyme spice mixture) sprinkled on top.

Make a salad of tomatoes, cucumbers, and onions, with a dressing of olive oil, lemon juice, garlic, salt, and pepper.

## **Eight Questions Circuit**

This is the core of the program. Participants go around the room to different stations and explore the following 8 questions. You can shorten the program by using just question #1 and #8 plus any additional questions in between that interest you.

- 1.** Why *invest* in Israel and in a future Palestinian state?
  
- 2.** Which comes first – political peace or economic development?
  
- 3.** What could an economically viable Palestinian state look like?
  
- 4.** What major challenges does the current situation present for the Palestinian economy?
  
- 5.** What could Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation accomplish?
  
- 6.** Where do top-down and bottom-up approaches meet?
  
- 7.** What can Israel, the Palestinians, the Arab states, the US, and the international community do?
  
- 8.** What can you do?

## Program Guide for Facilitators

**Suggested Audience:** 15-50 participants who are curious about the issues and may or may not have any previous involvement. This could be a great opportunity to reach out to other religious and ethnic groups, and also to bring out members of the Jewish community.

**Suggested Format:** The party can be more informal/social or more structured/educational in format depending on your preferences. There should be an MC, or co-MCs, as well as people in charge of food.

The educational content is set up in 8 stations around the room, so people can learn and discuss as they mill about. You may choose to have a chunk of time designated for people to walk around and explore the stations in small groups, or you may just have them available for people to look at as they please. The room should be set up informally, with some chairs and perhaps round tables available. The snacks help create an informal environment and allow students to share the products of grass-roots economic cooperation.

For a simpler event, you can adapt the program by using just question #1 and #8 plus any additional questions in between that interest you.

**Time:** Approx. 2 hours

### Materials:

- Print-outs of the Eight Questions Circuit (included), plus tape
- 5 to 8 Laptops with internet access to show video clips and websites at stations (See those marked with a laptop graphic)
- Fair trade olive oil <http://www.peaceoil.net>\*

*\*See Guide to Olive Oil for more information*

**Before the Program:** Set up the Eight Questions Circuit (i.e. eight educational stations around the room and the snacks.

## Welcome

MC welcomes everyone and emphasizes how great it is to see everyone together, then gives an overview of the evening:

*We are here tonight to talk about investing in peace. A two-state solution is crucial for Israel's future as a democratic, Jewish homeland – and crucial for the future of Palestinians as well. To achieve lasting peace through a two-state solution, many*

*ingredients are needed. The one we are focusing on tonight is economic viability and cooperation in the region.*

*The big question for the evening is: **How does economic investment connect to a long-term resolution of the conflict?** To spark discussion we'll browse the "Eight Questions Circuit"—the stations around the room set up with quotes and videos.*

## **Eight Questions Circuit:**

How does economic investment connect to a long-term resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

The next part of the program is for attendees to explore the "Eight Questions Circuit," i.e. the eight educational stations placed in order around the room. All the questions connect to the overarching question: How does economic investment connect to a long-term resolution of the conflict?

Each station consists of a poster, which offers a key question and some educational content (e.g. a video, or quotes, or a web page). Four of the stations also require a laptop. Materials should be hung on the wall, or otherwise displayed in a way that participants can easily see.

There are two options for how to run this section of the program:

***Option A:*** More structured. Small groups of three or four people can rotate around the stations, approx 3-5 min per station, to touch on a variety of issues. At each station, they will explore the educational content and then discuss the key question.

***Option B:*** More informal. Participants can mill about the room exploring the stations while the gathering goes on. Participants can then discuss the key questions during a concluding discussion.

See another document in this kit, "Materials for the Eight Questions Circuit" to view and print all eight posters.

***Note:*** For a simpler event, you can adapt the program by using just question #1 and #8 plus any additional questions in between that interest you.

Here are the eight stations in the Eight Questions Circuit, along with a brief description and set-up instructions:



**= This station requires a laptop**

### **1. Why *invest* in Israel and in a future Palestinian state?**

To achieve peace, both Israel and the Palestinian territories need continued support and financial investment. Here are some reasons to invest in Israel and in a future Palestinian state.

*Set-up Instructions: Hang up the poster.*

### **2. Which comes first – political peace or economic development?**

If there isn't "political peace," can there be Palestinian economic growth? If there isn't a viable Palestinian economy, can there be an effective two-state solution? Watch these clips from political and NGO leaders about how the political process and economic viability relate to each other.

*Set-up Instructions: Hang up the poster. Set up two laptops with web browsers open to the following websites. Or just use one laptop with two web browsers open to:*



- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxedFFqs3LA&feature=related>
- <http://vimeo.com/7295506>

### **3. What could an economically viable Palestinian state look like?**

"If a Palestinian state rises, will it *work*?" Bernard Avishai wrote recently. On the most basic level, for a state to work, there needs to be physical infrastructure. Watch this video showing the RAND Corporation's plan for "The Arc," a transportation corridor for a new Palestinian state.



*Set-up Instructions: Hang up the poster. Set up a laptop with a web browser open to <http://www.rand.org/palestine/>.*

#### **4. What major challenges does the current situation present for the Palestinian economy?**

The situation in the Palestinian territories poses severe challenges to economic growth. However, creating the conditions necessary for economic growth could put Israelis' security at risk. Read these excerpts about how the conflict affects the economy.

*Set-up Instructions: Hang up the poster.*

#### **5. What could Israeli-Palestinian economic cooperation accomplish?**

Economic cooperation between Israelis and Palestinians exists on many levels. Explore the websites of these two organizations and read the excerpts provided. What can these projects accomplish, and what are their limitations? What other joint ventures could you imagine?

*Set-up Instructions: Hang up the poster. Set up two laptops with web browsers open to the following websites. Or just use one laptop with two web browsers open to:*



- <http://ipcc.org.il/>
- <http://www.peres-center.org/BusinessAndEconomics.html>.

#### **6. Where do top-down and bottom-up approaches meet?**

Do economic development solutions come from within communities or from external sources? Even some large economic institutions are adopting community empowerment models. Browse these websites for examples of economic development projects from several different organizations.



*Set-up Instructions: Hang up the poster. Set up one or more laptops with web browsers open to:*

- New Israel Fund  
<http://www.nif.org/issue-areas/social-and-economic-justice/>
- The World Bank's Village and Neighborhood Development Project  
<http://go.worldbank.org/DO5OLO3VN0>
- Lend for Peace  
<http://lendforpeace.org/>
- MEJDI  
<http://mejdi.net/our-philosophy/>

## **7. What can Israel, the Palestinians, the Arab states, the US, and the international community do?**

Improving the Palestinian economy in support of a viable two-state solution will take the proactive effort of many different parties. Although there are many constructive actions that could be taken, here's just one step that each party could take to move in the right direction. What do you think should be done?

*Set-up Instructions: Hang up the poster.*

## **8. What can you do?**

Join J Street U's Invest, Don't Divest campaign and be part of a constructive resolution. Here are some ways you can help.

*Set-up solution Instructions: Hang up the poster. At this station, attendees can invest \$2 for 2 States. On laptop, open up a web browser and visit <http://www.jstreetu.org/latest/invest-dont-divest> and then click on the "Invest \$2 for 2 States" link.*



## **Discussion Questions for the Large Group** (optional)

If Come back together in the large group and discuss the following questions:

- After exploring the eight questions, what are your thoughts on the overarching question: How does economic investment connect to a long-term resolution of the conflict?
- What can we do together on our campus to promote forward momentum toward a two-state solution?

## Closing

Thank everyone for coming. Perhaps ask for a few highlights or take-home messages from the stations around the room, if this discussion has not already happened. Be sure specific people are assigned to take the lead on any next steps that were generated. Discuss next steps on the campaign.

Encourage everyone to Invest \$2 for 2 States now! It just takes a few clicks on the laptop right here (at Station #8). The money goes to two organizations — LendforPeace.org, a Palestinian microfinance organization set up by students, and The Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development, which promotes Jewish-Arab Economic Cooperation in Israel.

Make sure everyone has signed in, and perhaps mention the time and date of your next meeting or event, or another campaign to look forward to.

## Post-Program

After the event, follow up and thank attendees and co-organizers. Again mention the time and date of your next meeting or event.

Include in your follow-up email:

*Remember to Invest \$2 for 2 States [<http://www.jstreetu.org/latest/invest-dont-divest> and then click on the “Invest \$2 for 2 States” link] now, and then get your friends to invest also! The money goes to two organizations — LendforPeace.org, a Palestinian microfinance organization set up by students, and The Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development, which promotes Jewish-Arab Economic Cooperation in Israel. See [www.jstreetu.org](http://www.jstreetu.org) for more information.*

As soon as possible, or within one week after the event, fill out the Activity Feedback Form at <http://www.jstreetu.org/activity-feedback-form>. This will help J Street U continue to improve our programming!

## Further Reading

Here are a few articles if you are interested in exploring these issues further:

### ➤ *“Tutu’s Prayer”*

Uri Avnery’s column in Gush Shalom, August 29, 2009

<http://zope.gush-shalom.org/home/en/channels/avnery/1251547904?ver=Sat%252C%2029%20Aug%202009%2015%253A11%253A47%20%252B0300>

Avnery argues that Israel is different than South Africa, and therefore divestment is not appropriate in Israel. “In South Africa, the world-wide boycott helped in strengthening the majority and steeling it for the struggle. The impact of a boycott on Israel would be the exact opposite: it would push the large majority into the arms of the extreme right and create a fortress mentality against the ‘anti-Semitic world.’”

### ➤ *“An Ambitious But Deliverable Agenda”*

Tony Blair Interview with Middle East Bulletin, November 24, 2009

<http://middleeastprogress.org/2009/11/an-ambitious-but-deliverable-agenda/>

Blair calls for "transformative change of the facts on the ground in the West Bank so that Palestinians can see an improvement in their daily lives and the weight of occupation can be lifted, at the same time as the Palestinian Authority continues to reform and improve their security capacity so that Israelis can feel secure."

### ➤ *“Challenges and Possibilities: A Palestinian Perspective”*

Hashim Shawa, general manager, Bank of Palestine. Interview with Middle East Bulletin, February 10, 2009

<http://middleeastprogress.org/2009/02/challenges-and-possibilities-a-palestinian-perspective/>