The Palestinian right of return
The right of return is a core demand of the Palestinian struggle for human rights and justice. Palestinians around the world give voice to this demand at protests, in campaigns, in art and in song.
In 1948, over 750,000 Palestinians were forcibly displaced, exiled or forced to flee violence by militias, which later became the Israeli military. Palestinians call this the ‘Nakba’, Arabic for catastrophe.
Hundreds of Palestinian villages were destroyed, making way for new settlements that now make up the state of Israel.
Over 7 million Palestinian refugees are now scattered around the globe. Israel won’t let the refugees return home, and most are barred from even visiting the lands where their ancestors lived for countless generations.
Return is a universal right for refugees, enshrined in international law through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Convention. UN resolution 194 affirms that Palestinians have a right of return to their homes.
But this right is not just a piece of law. It’s a political principle, important for land defenders in the many places where people are resisting displacement. Supporting the right of return is an obligation for states, and a responsibility for solidarity movements. Supporting justice means supporting refugees’ rights.
War on Want supports the call from Palestinian civil society to build a global movement of boycott, divestment, and sanctions. BDS aims to pressure companies and our government to end complicity in Israel’s violations of international law, including the denial of Palestinians’ right of return.

As a part of our Justice for Palestine campaign, we are calling on the UK government to #StopArmingIsrael.

Peel here and support justice for Palestinians

waronwant.org
@ support@waronwant.org
020 7324 5040

Registered charity number 208724

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