



Newsletter

The Two-State Solution Coalition - TSC



Introduction to the Two-State Coalition

The Palestinian Peace Coalition in partnership with H.L. Education for Peace (jointly known as the Geneva Initiative), with generous support from the European Commission under the EU Peacebuilding Initiative, launched the “Two - State Solution Coalition” in early April 2018. The Coalition brings together Palestinian and Israeli civil society organizations who believe in the two-state solution on the basis of 1967 borders as the way forward to end the Israeli occupation and achieve peace, as envisioned in the Geneva Initiative. [READ MORE](#)

Who we are

The TSC is a coalition of civil society organizations that supports and advocates for a two-state solution. The coalition includes 22 Palestinian and Israeli peace-oriented organizations, each of which works in its own sphere of influence to create conditions and public support that will lead to a negotiated settlement. [READ MORE](#)

What we stand for

Member organizations of the TSC [declare](#) their shared support for the principle that the logic of peace requires mutual compromise, and the only viable solution is the two-state solution based on 1967 borders with mutual land swaps, East Jerusalem as the capital for the emerging Palestinian State with an agreed upon solution for the issue of the Palestinian refugees as stipulated in the Arab Peace Initiative.

Through the coalition, we coordinate local and cross-border messages and actions across Palestinian and Israeli society. The work of each individual member is strengthened by the information sharing and cooperation that the coalition enables. The coalition is based on a very simple principle: we are stronger together.

A message from Nidal Foqaha, Director General of the PPC, to the Palestinian public on the TSC project:

We lunched the two-state solution coalition project to protect the two-state solution and to maintain it as the only viable solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict ... and as a counter effort to the attempts to impose new realities on the ground that would alter the clear terms of reference of the peace process.

[READ MORE.](#)

TSC Local Activities

During the first year of the TSC project, the PPC and HLEP brought together 23 organizations from both sides as members of the TSC representing different geographic areas, as well as different fields of work, including organizations led by youth and women. The TSC members attended enrichment seminars, held briefings about pressing issues (Israeli elections and the Trump Plan, to name a few), and organized advocacy meetings. Also, the TSC commissioned a public opinion poll to test the public's attitudes towards the two-state solution – see more details in page 5.



TSC members participating in a training workshop on advocacy through social media. Ramallah, May 2018

Joint Meetings: Taking Stock of the Situation

What's happening on the other side, and what's their take on the news? We held a total of eight joint meetings for members of the TSC and members of the TSC secretariat, where we discussed the Palestinian and Israeli politics and the latest developments that have direct impact on the prospects of achieving the two-state solution. These meetings also let Palestinian and Israeli CSOs share various challenges facing them, especially the ever-shrinking space of CSOs to operate freely in support of peace and the two-state solution, and to exchange ideas on how best to approach and tackle these challenges.

Advocacy with Influencers

A message from both sides is much more powerful than a one-sided appeal. Palestinian and Israeli TSC members have met with local and foreign stakeholders, including decision-makers, leading journalists, and top-ranking diplomats. The focus of the meetings: a call for action to save the two-state solution, especially given the latest political developments on the local, regional and international levels. The meetings also targeted local political leaders, members of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and the Israeli Knesset to increase and express support for the two-state solution, putting pressure on such influential players towards reigniting the peace process in support of the two-state solution.

Enriching Our Members' Skillset

The whole is only as strong as its parts. The TSC prioritizes building the capacity of member organizations to be more influential and to have greater impact on their constituencies while advocating for the two-state solution. As such, the PPC and HLEP organized 5 workshops and seminars on both sides to enhance the financial, administrative and advocacy skills of the TSC members. How do organizations deal with financial challenges? What are the key administrative practices for a productive CSO? How can we use social media platforms to reach the widest possible audience? Our workshops and seminars focused on these topics and more.

International advocacy visits to EU capitals

The international community is a critical player in the peace process. Members of the TSC led by the Directors General of the PPC and HLEP visited Brussels and The Hague to meet with EU stakeholders and officials, updating them about the status of the two-state solution and raising awareness about the reality on the ground in light of recent political developments that put the two-state solution at great risk. EU intervention is much needed at this phase to protect the two-state solution, so these meetings are a forum for Palestinian and Israeli organizations to discuss the role of the EU in the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP) and call for a more effective intervention from the EU and EU member states.



Palestinian and Israeli TSC members during a joint seminar in Nazareth. October 2018

Palestinian and Israeli members of the TSC joint secretariat met with HE Mr. Pierre Cochard, Consul General of France in Jerusalem. October 2018.





TSC members meeting with Tzipi Livni, former member of the Knesset and former opposition leader. January 2019



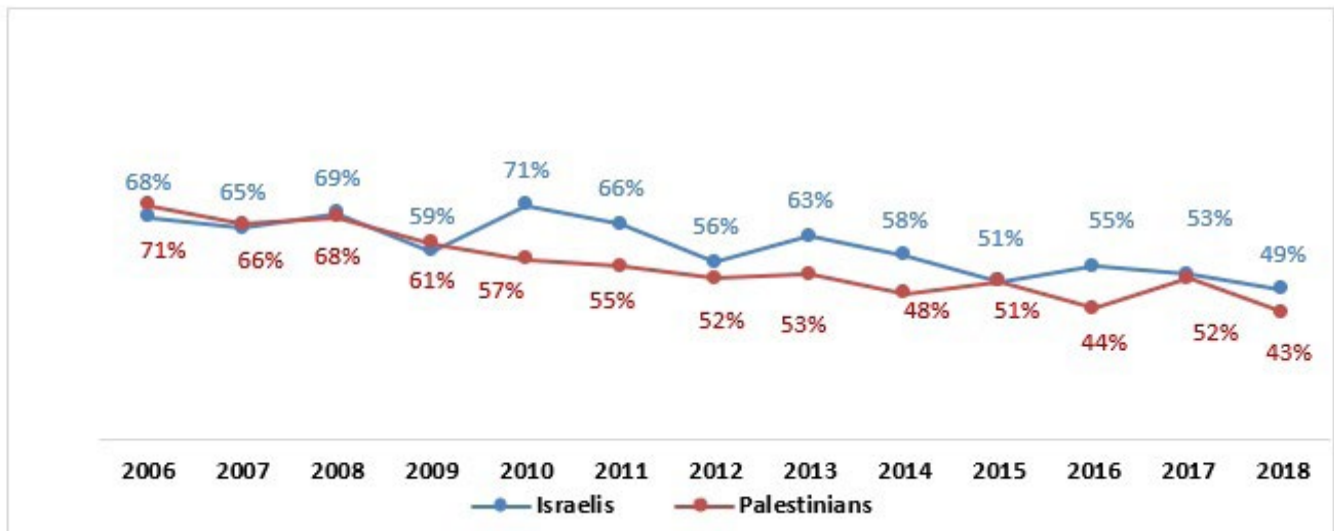
TSC members during a visit to China in June 2019



Nidal Foqaha, PPC Director General meeting with Belgium official in Brussels. May 2019

Palestinian and Israeli Attitudes towards the Two-State Solution

Chart (1): Palestinian and Israeli support for the concept of a two-state solution between 2006 and 2018



The Two-State Solution remains the first choice for Palestinians and Israelis

A public opinion [poll](#) commissioned by the PPC showed that when given three choices for a settlement with Israel, the largest percentage (49%) selected the “two state solution, on the basis of the 1967 borders.” The second choice was the “one-state, with equal rights and duties to Palestinians and Jews,” with 13% selecting it. 11% selected a third choice: “one-state, as the case with Israeli Arabs today.” It is worth noting that 53% of Gazans, compared to 47% of West Bankers, selected the first choice.

A public opinion poll commissioned by the HLEP in February indicated that Israeli voters still care about peace and support the two-state solution. The poll results showed that resuming negotiations over a two-state solution is a priority issue for most voters, and that a party’s commitment to establish permanent borders between Israel and Palestine would increase voters’ support for that party. The results were published in [Haaretz](#), and sent Israeli politicians an important and timely message: supporting the two-state solution is not only the right thing to do, it is also politically expedient.

Public Statements in Support of the Two-State Solution

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, addressing a joint Palestinian-Israeli group celebrating the launching of the Palestinian Peace & Freedom Forum as a parallel arm to the Israeli Peace Parliament said:

This is an initiative to save the peace process and the two-state solution.... the two-state solution is a high interest not only for the Palestinians, but also for the Israelis.

Palestinian Prime Minister Dr. Mohammed Shtayyeh recently called for an international coalition for the two-state solution and said:

There is no alternative to the two-state solution, a Palestinian state alongside an Israeli state, with the Palestinian entity based on the 1967 borders with occupied East Jerusalem as its capitol.

Former Israeli PM Ehud Barak in an interview with momentmag (March 2019) said:

Probably 50 percent of the public believes in the two states. Probably even 70 percent think that if we cannot reach an agreement with the Palestinians, we have to consider unilateral disengagement while keeping our security responsibility for the whole area.

Stav Shaffir, Israeli Member of Knesset, as cited in the Jerusalem Post (June 2019) said:

"People around the world don't know that a majority of Israelis are in favor of a two-state solution"

To read more recent news on the two-state solution

Abbas reiterate commitment to the two-state solution

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/201810/5//abbas-reiterates-support-for-two-state-solution-at-chile-conference>

Chief Palestinian Negotiator Saed Erekat warns the two-state solution is at risk:

<https://www.thenational.ae/world/mena/palestinian-negotiator-saeb-erekat-warns-two-state-solution-at-risk-1.846140>

Senior Blue and White member: Party backs two-state to separate from Palestinians:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/senior-blue-and-white-member-party-backs-2-states-to-separate-from-palestinians/>

Nearly half of Israeli voters back two-state solution: i24NEWS Poll

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/politics/195730190221--nearly-half-of-israeli-voters-back-two-state-solution-i24news-poll>

Zandberg to i24NEWS: No future for Israel without Palestinian state

<https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/politics/195912190224--left-wing-party-head-to-i24news-no-future-for-israel-without-palestinian-state>

The American peace deal, the Bahrain workshop, the Palestinian official position, political vs. economic solution and the need for an agreement based on the two-state solution: Watch Nidal Fiqqah, Director General of the PPC, speaks to i24NEWS during an interview from Ramallah: Watch Video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qN1q9CyAask>

This Newsletter has been produced by the Two - State Solution Coalition
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Palestinian Peace Coalition – Geneva Initiative

Tel: +972 (0)2 29725356/IFax: +972 (0)2 2972538

Email : info@ppc.org.ps | Webpage: www.ppc.org.ps

Facebook: [PalestinianPeaceCoalitionGenevaInitiative](https://www.facebook.com/PalestinianPeaceCoalitionGenevaInitiative)

