

# "What can you do for Palestine and its children?"

A recent message from the people of Gaza conveyed by one of the speakers: *"Please remember us in your prayers and we send all Australians our best wishes."*

A few key solutions were raised:

1. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict especially the situation in Gaza is not just a religious issue but a human rights issue and while we speak out against it we should be prepared to be ridiculed and called anti-semitic. You will be called names for supporting this cause. It's going to happen so remind yourself and each other often that you are standing on the side of human rights.

2. Educate yourself with the facts and be part of the solution by engaging in dialogue. If you are armed with facts of the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict then we can respond to media propaganda, social media as well as the general public with these facts which will give us more credibility.

3. Engage with politicians, as they are the ones who can make a difference. Write to them, call them, and attend their events. Attend protests and sign petitions. Simply ask them what they think the Palestinians should do. If Hamas stops the rockets tomorrow then what? Do we wait for Israel to stop the blockade and occupation? How long do they wait? With the state elections coming up, they will want to speak to you because they need your vote.

4. The media images are just one perspective  
Most speakers said that the media portrayal of the Palestinian people is inaccurate. So be prepared to view the news with an open mind - there is a PR Propaganda machine at work so be aware of this. Do not let other global matters (although they are important too) distract you from the Palestinian issue.

Social media with live tweets and updates has leveled the playing field a bit this time around. Use facts and make a clear distinction between Zionism and Judaism as not all Jews support the killings in Gaza.

5. The Islamic belief is that mankind has been honoured as a creation and we have a responsibility to embody God in our dealings with all aspects of creation, be it to do with the animal kingdom, insects, the environment or humanity itself. This is consistent with Judaism and Christianity too. We have a responsibility to live in a way that is beneficial to humanity - live in a way where we can accept our differences and unite on common fronts.

## **6. BDS - Boycott, Divest, Sanction**

This was a key point by many speakers. This is a way that ALL of us can make a difference and cripple Israel economically. It was suggested that while it is important to boycott all Israeli products it is more important to choose the big supporters and ensure that we spread the boycott of these products as this will and already is making a huge impact on Israel's GDP.