

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS CAMPAIGN?

We want more Vermont businesses, organizations, and faith groups to declare themselves “apartheid free.” Since 2021, three major human rights groups, including one Israeli group, have published exhaustive reports accusing Israel of the crime of apartheid against Palestinians. With taxpayer dollars and political cover, the American people, including Vermonters, continue to uphold this cruel system of inequality. Declaring your group “apartheid free” would be the first step in dismantling that support and affirming the rights of the Palestinian people, the same rights that should exist for all people.

DECLARING YOUR GROUP “APARTHEID-FREE” IS BOTH

A DECLARATION OF VALUES

Affirming that your community opposes Israeli apartheid and all forms of discrimination



A CALL TO ACTION

Committing to act as a community to dismantle U.S. support for Israeli apartheid and all other violence

APARTHEID-FREE PLEDGE TEXT

We were inspired in this campaign by the Apartheid-free Communities initiative. More than 260 faith-based communities, solidarity organizations, and businesses have taken the following pledge and declared themselves “apartheid-free.” As communities, we hope to follow this example of principled moral action.

WE AFFIRM

our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people; and

WE OPPOSE

all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and

WE DECLARE

ourselves an apartheid-free community, and to that end,

WE PLEDGE

to join others in working to end all support to Israel's apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.



APARTHEID FREE VERMONT

WHAT IS APARTHEID?

Apartheid is one frame through which to examine the actions taken by the Israeli government and the systems and structures perpetuating inequality and violence against Palestinians. The frame of apartheid helps us see the oppression of Palestinians as both a civil rights issue and a racial justice issue. Military occupation and settler colonialism are two other frames through which to understand violence against Palestinians. They are both mentioned in the apartheid-free pledge language.

LEGAL
DEFINITION

Apartheid is defined in international law as a crime against humanity that involves “inhuman acts committed for the purpose of establishing and maintaining domination by one racial group of persons over any other racial group of persons and systematically oppressing them.” While the global understanding of apartheid developed based on the official legal policy by that name that existed in South Africa, apartheid can exist anywhere.

Learn the details of Israel's apartheid policies in these three reports from leading human rights organizations

bit.ly/btselemapartheid
bit.ly/amnestyapartheidreport
bit.ly/hrwapartheidinfo

APARTHEID LOOKS LIKE...

MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS

A complex system of ID cards, checkpoints, and permits restricts where Palestinians can travel. Palestinians from Gaza live under military blockade and must obtain a permit to leave. Permit applications are often denied or delayed, even for those seeking medical care.

HOME DEMOLITIONS

Israel uses policies including the Absentee Property Law and a building permit system to take over Palestinian-owned land, often for Jewish-only settlements or military training zones.

RESTRICTIONS ON VOTING RIGHTS

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip cannot vote in Israeli elections that determine the policies they must then live under.

WHY CARE ABOUT PALESTINE IN VT?

If you care about mental health...

Read about the effect of the blockade on the mental health of those living in Gaza at bit.ly/gazamentalhealth

If you care about our earth...

Read about the destruction of native trees and theft of water at bit.ly/environmentalapartheid

If you care about the free press...

Read about the systemic killing of journalists by the Israeli military at bit.ly/deadlypattern

If you care about police violence...

Read about exchange programs between U.S. police and the Israeli military at bit.ly/deadlyexchangeinfo

ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL AND SHOULD BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY AND RESPECT



vtjp.org | apartheid-free.org

COVER IMAGE: Civil Rights leader Rosa Parks protests apartheid outside the South African Embassy in 1984