

Dear Ms Gilruth

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cross-Party Group on Palestine in the Scottish Parliament in response to the issue contained within which was raised at the group's last meeting.

Specifically, at the most recent meeting, the group expressed concern at the lack of up-to-date teaching materials on Palestine and Israel.

Noting that, the Group were aware of the teaching material produced by Scottish teachers and supported by Education Scotland.

However, further noted that the commitment made by Education Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Government, for this material to be available on Glow has, to date, not been fulfilled.

The resource currently sits with the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) and has been widely downloaded from their website. However, it is significantly out of date and urgently requires a refresh.

At this time, when our young people are once again watching what is happening in Gaza and the world's reaction to it, it is essential that they can discuss their concerns in the safe space a classroom can offer.

By choosing silence, we fail our young people, perpetuating ignorance and apathy in the face of suffering and injustice. It follows that teachers should have reliable and up-to-date material to inform their teaching.

With the support of the EIS, a small team of currently teaching EIS members has reviewed the existing material and is willing to undertake further work to improve and update the resource.

There are questions however about whether the EIS has the capacity to undertake such a piece of work.

We, therefore kindly suggest that Education Scotland are best placed to lead the next phase of development and to this end seek your views on the possibility of arranging a meeting between Education Scotland, the EIS and representatives of the working party to agree a route to a new updated teaching resource on Israel and Palestine.

Regards

[Redaction – 38(1)(b)]

Secretary to

CPG Palestine

[Out of scope]

From: [Redacted - 38(1)(b)]
Sent: 18 March 2025 14:45
To: Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills 2024
Subject: Correspondence on behalf of Cross Party Group on Palestine

Hi,

Please find attached correspondence on behalf of the Cross-Party Group in the Scottish Parliament on Palestine.

Kind regards,
[Redacted - 38(1)(b)]
Cross Party Group on Palestine

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Dear Ms Gilruth

A recent meeting of the Cross Party Group on Palestine, expressed concern at the lack of up-to-date teaching materials on Palestine and Israel.

The Group are aware of the teaching material produced by Scottish teachers and supported by Education Scotland. However, the commitment made by Education Scotland, on behalf of the Scottish Government, for this material to be available on Glow has never been honoured.

The resource currently sits with the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) and has been widely downloaded from their website. However, it is significantly out of date and urgently requires a refresh.

At this time, when our young people are once again watching what is happening in Gaza and the world's reaction to it, it is essential that they can discuss their concerns in the safe space a classroom can offer. By choosing silence, we fail our young people, perpetuating ignorance and apathy in the face of suffering and injustice. It follows that teachers should have reliable and up-to-date material to inform their teaching.

With the support of the EIS, a small team of currently teaching EIS members has reviewed the existing material and is willing to undertake further work to improve and update the resource. There are questions however about whether the EIS has the capacity to undertake such a piece of work.

We suggest that Education Scotland are best placed to lead the next phase of development. To this end, we request you arrange a meeting between Education Scotland, the EIS and representatives of the working party to agree a route to a new updated teaching resource on Israel and Palestine.

Regards

CPG Palestine

[Out of scope]

From: Jehan Al-Azzawi <[Redacted - 38(1)(b)]>

Sent: 08 September 2025 07:10

To: Yousaf H (Humza), MSP <Humza.Yousaf.msp@parliament.scot>; Greer R (Ross), MSP <Ross.Greer.msp@parliament.scot>; Gilruth J (Jenny), MSP <Jenny.Gilruth.msp@parliament.scot>; Boyack S (Sarah), MSP <Sarah.Boyack.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Adam K (Karen), MSP <Karen.Adam.MSP@Parliament.scot>; Harvie P (Patrick), MSP <Patrick.Harvie.msp@parliament.scot>

Cc: [Redacted - 38(1)(b)] [Redacted - 38(1)(b)]

Subject: Scotland needs a national teaching resource on the Israel-Palestine conflict

Dear MSP,

We are writing as representatives of Educators for Peace, Scotdec and the Scottish International Development Alliance.

Last week the England-based organisation Parallel Histories was hosted at Holyrood, showcasing its approach to teaching the Israel-Palestine conflict to young people. Colleagues present at this event raised a number of concerns about their approach, which regrettably failed to mention Gaza at all. The debate style employed by Parallel Histories is also objectionable, employing the Oxbridge debating style that prioritises winning an argument over and above the consideration of ethics, morals, truth or justice. Furthermore, the Parallel Histories approach to the teaching of Britain's colonial history presents this as a dichotomy of positive vs negative impacts. This is an approach that is outdated in the

Scottish education context, which now emphasises an anti-racist and decolonial approach to the teaching of our past.

Having worked with educators over the past year and a half to support teaching on the conflict, we have found that teachers lack the confidence and institutional support to teach this critical topic of our time. Despite Arthur Balfour's Scottish roots, the role of the British Empire in the formation of the Israel-Palestine conflict is not taught in Scottish schools. We believe it should be.

As the Scottish Government continues to take steps to show its solidarity with Palestinians while a plausible genocide is underway in Gaza, we believe now is the time for the government to also sponsor a flagship Scottish resource on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Many years ago there was an attempt by the Scottish government and other stakeholders to create a comprehensive teaching resource on the conflict. Copyright over the resource was retained solely by the EIS who continue to host it on their website today:

<https://blog.eis.org.uk>

The resource is now out of date and in need of an update. Having reviewed the resource, it is in fact in need of a comprehensive rewrite. And we think this should be approached collaboratively with the involvement of multiple stakeholder organisations with the expertise to contribute to a high quality teaching resource firmly rooted in the Scottish educational context.

We are writing to request that you convene a roundtable discussion about the creation of a national teaching resource on the Israel-Palestine conflict. We would like to see engagement from the Scottish Government at this roundtable and other education stakeholders. We would encourage you to invite representatives from the following organisations who would be able to support this work with the appropriate expertise in education and/or the conflict:

Educators for Peace

Scotdec

WOSDEC

Scottish International Development Alliance

Peace Platform (Beyond Borders)

The Balfour Project

Amnesty International

Oxfam

SCIAF

Quakers Peace Education
University of Edinburgh

EIS

NASUWT

As a topic that always engenders controversy, teachers need to be able to have access to an accurate and authoritative resource that has been endorsed by the government, key education stakeholders and expert organisations. This would give teachers the assurance and support that they need to teach about the conflict with confidence.

We believe the present moment is the optimal time to finally incorporate the Israel-Palestine conflict in to teaching & learning in Scotland. Doing so will transform knowledge and understanding of the conflict among Scots, and contribute to the nurture of future generations of Scottish peace makers.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jehan Al-Azzawi - Founder, Educators for Peace <https://educatorsforpeace.co.uk>

Charlotte Dwyer - Director, Scotdec <https://scotdec.org.uk>

Frances Guy - Chief Executive, Scottish International Development Alliance
<https://intdevalliance.scot>

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Jehan Al-Azzawi
[Redacted - 38(1)(b)]

Our Reference: 202500485070

15 October 2025

Dear Ms Al-Azzawi ,

Thank you for your email of 08 September 2025 to the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills regarding your request to convene a roundtable discussion about the creation of a national teaching resource on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

As a policy officer for social studies, I have been asked to respond on behalf of Ms Gilruth.

Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) aims to develop a society based on social justice, equality and respect. It provides opportunities for pupils to develop their understanding of conflicts, as well as issues such as Islamophobia, antisemitism and other forms of discrimination.

In relation to the EIS resources, significant efforts were made to facilitate the development of a set of resources that could be agreed to by all key stakeholders, but that did not prove possible and therefore Education Scotland could not endorse or share the resources via its own channels.

'Palestine and Israel, understanding the Conflict' is not a Scottish Government or Education Scotland resource. As you note in our email, copyright over the resource was retained solely by the EIS who continue to host it on their website today. It is owned by the EIS, is available via the EIS website and it is therefore a matter for the EIS to consider if, when and how it wishes to update that particular resource.

Your email sets out initial proposals for a roundtable discussion and points more broadly to the absence of a current Scottish-specific practical resource for teachers on the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Officials are reflecting on the points raised in your letter and I have shared your email with Education Scotland as part of ongoing consideration of this issue.

Yours sincerely

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot



[Redacted - 38(1)(b)]

CURR : SOCIETY, CITIZENSHIP, THE ARTS AND LANGUAGES

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St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1
3DG
www.gov.scot



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[Redacted - 38(1)(b)]

From: [Redacted - 38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - 38(1)(b)] @parliament.scot>
Sent: 05 November 2025 13:11
To: Central Correspondence Unit
Subject: Teaching Materials on Isreal and Palestine
Attachments: Teaching Materials on Isreal and Palestine.docx; letter to Jenny Gilruth 27.02.25.odt
Categories: MC/MR

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter for the attention of the Cabinet Secretary for Education and a copy of a letter from February 2025 as background to this enquiry.

Thank you for your assistance.

Kindest regards,

[Redacted - 38(1)(b)]

[Redacted - 38(1)(b)]

Office of James Dornan MSP | Member for Glasgow Cathcart (SNP)
[Redacted - 38(1)(b)] | [Redacted - 38(1)(b)] |
Constituency Office: Clincarthill Parish Church, 1220 Cathcart Road |Glasgow G42 9EU
Parliamentary Office: M3.07 |The Scottish Parliament | Edinburgh | EH99 1SP

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The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

5th November 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Teaching Materials on Isreal and Palestine

I have received a letter from the Scottish Friends of Palestine (SFoP) regarding a letter they sent to you on 17th February by the Cross Party Group on Palestine. I have attached the letter for your perusal.

The SFoP have advised that the CPG have not received a response. The letter makes reference in the last paragraph to a meeting arranged for 23rd October 2025. The CPG are not aware if this meeting took place. Naturally, if the meeting did take place the CPG is equally unaware of any outcomes or agreement that were reached at this meeting.

Could you confirm if you replied to letter dated 17th February 2025? In addition, can you confirm if the meeting did take place on 23rd October 2025 and what outcomes were arrived at? Finally, what is the Scottish Government's position on this matter.

As always I am grateful for your assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

James Dornan MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Glasgow Cathcart

James Dornan MSP (SNP)

Constituency Office: Clincarthill Parish Church - 1220 Cathcart Road, Glasgow, G42 9EU

Telephone: 0141 632 5238

Email: James.Dornan.msp@parliament.scot