

Newsletter

2020/2021

The Two-State Coalition "TSC"



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PEACE KNOWS NO BARRIERS

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

[Introduction to TSC](#)

[Highlights of the year](#)

[Public Opinion Polls](#)

[Public Statements & Resources](#)

INTRODUCTION:

The Two-State Coalition, a collective of 28 Palestinian and Israeli civil society, persisted in its efforts to advance its mutual goals of laying the foundations for achieving the two-state solution during 2020-21. Despite the myriad of challenges posed by the political, diplomatic and health context, we strengthened and expanded our work by enlarging our membership, by moving physical meetings to virtual ones, and by focusing on reaching new groups and more people. On the political front, the TSC encountered various obstacles from the aftermath of former President Trump's "Deal of the Century" plan to the escalation in May 2021 as well as the continued creeping de facto annexation and the political division between the Palestinian parties. COVID-19 and mobility restrictions all limited the capacity for regular on-the-ground meetings. Despite all of this, we did not give up and were more determined than ever to strengthen our cross-border connections, double down on our action and advance our advocacy. We overcome political challenges together, and with new opportunities presented by the year ahead, are motivated to act..



Mr. Nidal Fqaha

CEO, Palestinian Peace Coalition-Geneva Initiative

"As we came up against a tremendously difficult period for advancing the peace process this year, this only increased our persistence and determination work towards the two-state solution vision – which for us is the only way to end the conflict between our two peoples. Our hope and motivation is greater than ever and we will all work as one team to create a change."



Mr. Gadi Baltiansky

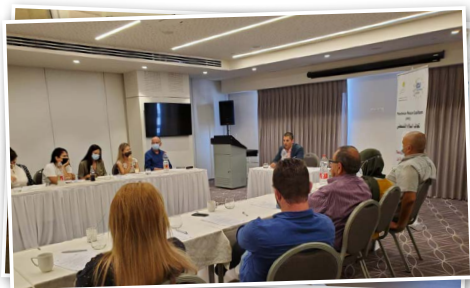
CEO, H. L. Education for Peace-Geneva Initiative

"The enemies of peace do not take a break. Each one of them, in their own way, tries to prevent the only possible, viable compromise between the parties – the two-state solution. They do it because they're afraid we will succeed, and indeed, we will succeed together."

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Joint Palestinian-Israeli Meetings

A total of 64 meetings were held. The joint meeting helped to strengthen ties between the Israeli and Palestinian member organizations creating opportunities for ongoing knowledge-exchange about the domestic situation on the ground in both societies, for coordinating and strategizing joint action, and for ensuring that a strong united message was delivered. In seminars, workshops and meetings, we delved into a myriad of topics from cooperation on climate change, to trends in public opinion and how to overcome the psychological barriers to resolution in both societies. In partnership, we confronted major political developments. During periods of violence, such as the escalation in May 2021, the robust channels of cross-border communication established by the TSC over the years ensured vital correspondence and dialogue between the two sides continued, despite polarized rhetoric in both societies.



Palestinian and Israeli coalition Members met with Benoit Chapas, EU deputy head of mission Annual Meetings, Nazareth August 2021



Joint secretariat, Ramallah June 2021

Advocacy with Local Decision-makers and Influencers

Holding our political leaders to account and urging genuine political action from key players who support the two-state solution, we engaged with key local stakeholders including members of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), Members of Israeli Knesset, foreign ministry officials, governmental advisors, and former and current ministers. Our advocacy and engagement work also encompassed meetings with journalists who have access to broad audiences and can influence the discourse about the conflict.



Israeli coalition members meet with new Israeli MKs Emilie Moatti, Gilad Kariv, Mossi Raz and Ghaida Rinawie Zoabi, Tel Aviv May 2021



Jericho August 2021



Jericho August 2021

Local Workshops and Capacity-Building Activities

We aim to constantly improve and enhance our work. To do this, we organize local knowledge-building workshops with academics and experts, as well as regular capacity building workshops for the members of the TSC. By strengthening the toolkit and skills-base available to the coalition, we ensure wider impact and access to platforms in addition to increasing the impact of our members on their constituencies and the public.



Joint Tour to the Jordan Valley, September 2021



Jericho, April 2021



Ramallah August 2021



Ramallah, May 2021



Jericho, August 2021

International advocacy

Engagement with the international community is a pillar of our work in advancing towards a sustainable two-state solution. Members of the TSC led by the Directors General of the PPC and HLEP met with dozens of leading international stakeholders including diplomats based in the region, ministers, and senior representatives. As we build an international coalition of support, we also extended our partnerships to new like-minded peacebuilding organizations in European capitals. These meetings provide a forum for Palestinian and Israeli organizations to share their policy recommendations, identify methods for strategic partnership with international players and call for a more effective intervention.



Bulgaria, July 2021



Meeting with German Minister of State, Niels Annen and German Ambassador to Israel, Susanne Wasum-Rainer, Tel Aviv, September 2021



Meeting with French Ambassador to Israel, Eric Danon, July 2021



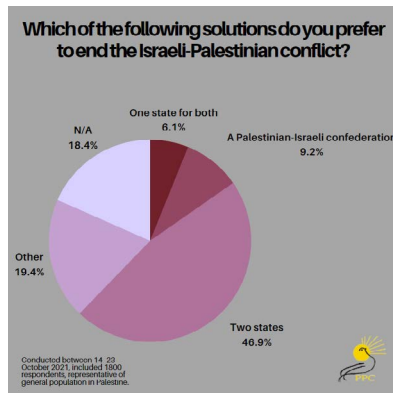
Meeting with former EU Special Representative to the MEPP, Susanna Terstal, October 2020



Meeting with former EU Special Representative to the MEPP, Susanna Terstal, Ramallah, October 2020

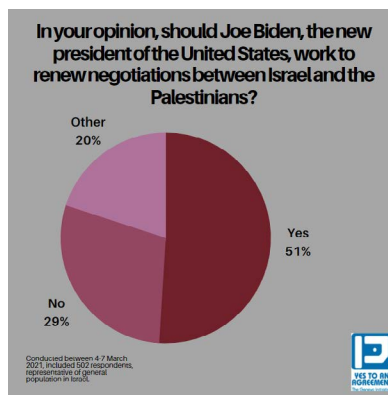
PUBLIC OPINION POLLS

We asked the Palestinian public which of the following options they prefer for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the results were:



Data from the Palestinian TSC Poll, October 2021

We asked the Israeli public about their view on renewing the negotiations process under the Biden administration, the results were:



Data from Israeli TSC Poll, March 2021

PUBLIC STATEMENTS AND SPEECHES SUPPORTING THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION



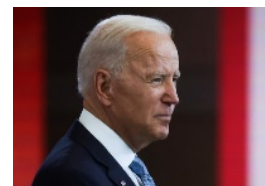
Abdullah bin Al-Husain II

King of Jordan

"The Two State Solution is the only genuine solution"

Un: Jordan's king Abdullah II pushes for two ... - youtube.com. Ruptly. (2019, September 25). Retrieved November 4, 2021,

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Joe Biden

President the United States of America

"A Two State Solution remains the only path forward"

Thomson Reuters. (2021, January 26). Biden wants Two-State Solution for Israel, Palestinians - white house. Reuters. Retrieved November 2021 ,25,from

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Sven Koopmans

EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process

"Lasting peace and security demand a Palestinian State alongside Israel, both countering violence and fostering respect for the law. In addition to violence, illegal settlements and evictions from occupied land are obstacles to peace and harm both Israeli and Palestinian security."

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Angela Merkel

former German Chancellor

"We do not want to give up the idea of a two-state solution, but rather keep it. We believe Israel's security is best guaranteed when there is also a state for the Palestinians in which they can live."

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