

Hello. I am honoured to be here speaking to you all today. I want to acknowledge that I know I'm not the most important voice here today by far, so thank you for having me.

I want to speak to you all about what has brought me here, and why I think we all must keep fighting for a free Palestine for all who live between the river and the sea.

I am a Jewish 25-year-old born in the UK. I grew up in a British Zionist Jewish environment. I was taught about Israel from a very young age, but not about Palestine. I have spent much of my adult life learning and unlearning.

I have learnt that no one nation state can exist if its existence is based on the oppression of another people. I have learnt that no one is free until we are all free. I have learnt about the decades of oppression Palestinians have undergone.

Importantly, I have learnt from my Palestinian Comrades to hold my rage and grief and channel it into hope and resistance. So many times in the last 16 months I've wanted to look away, turn my phone off and throw it across the room out of despair and upset. But I am still here, because of lessons in steadfastness and about community from my Palestinian brothers and sisters across the globe. We are here still here because whilst we hope that the people of Gaza finally get a chance to breathe and mourn in the ceasefire, this is not the time for us to slow down. We are here because whilst there may be temporary ceasefire, we need to keep all eyes on Gaza, to ensure the ceasefire lasts. We are here because there is still occupation, and we are here because there is still apartheid. We are here today because our British government is still selling weapons to Israel.

Its apt that I speak to you on the weekend of holocaust Memorial Day. It's a day that means a lot to me, it's a chance to remember the 6 million Jewish people and all the people that died in the

Holocaust, and in other genocides. Not only that, but it's also a reminder to me every year to remember the dead, and to fight like hell for the living. It's a reminder that never again means never again for anyone.

We are here today to remember the importance of keeping up our fight for Palestinians, that they be allowed to live, and breathe, and roam freely in their own land.

I'm also here today, perhaps selfishly, for a secondary reason, to fight for the future of Judaism. I am here because as a Jew I want to scream from the rooftops not in my name. There is a state that says its acting in my name. There's a state that has stolen my religion and culture and tarred it with death, and violence and oppression. There's a state that says it's doing so for my safety.

But I am here because I know that my safety is intrinsically and inextricably linked to the safety of other minorities around me. Because the more antisemitism is used as a political football to avoid accountability for genocide and war crimes, the less safe we all are. The less attention goes on the current rise of the far right, such as nazi salutes from the richest man in the world- putting us all at risk, and the less likely justice and accountability on the Israeli state are- putting Palestinians at even greater risk.

The Judaism I know recognises the importance of truth, justice and peace. To be Jewish today, to me, is to recognise my Jewish heritage, to recognise our history of dispossession and genocide, and precisely because of that to be here today, standing alongside Palestinians.

Free Palestine