

► While the crisis in Gaza has been adopted by the majority of morally-sound people in the world as a humanitarian issue, we must not lose sight of the fact that **the Palestinian cause is an inherently Muslim one:**



The Palestinian struggle is an **issue for all Muslims**, despite being framed as a nationalistic issue for decades



Palestine is **significant in Islamic history**: it was the first direction of prayer and is the 3rd holiest site in our religion.



The blood of the Muslims of Palestine is **more sacred than the Kaabah** itself. Their slaughter is a personal affront.



Concern for Palestine is the **heartbeat of the Ummah**. When it is active, our connection to Allah & the Ummah is alive.

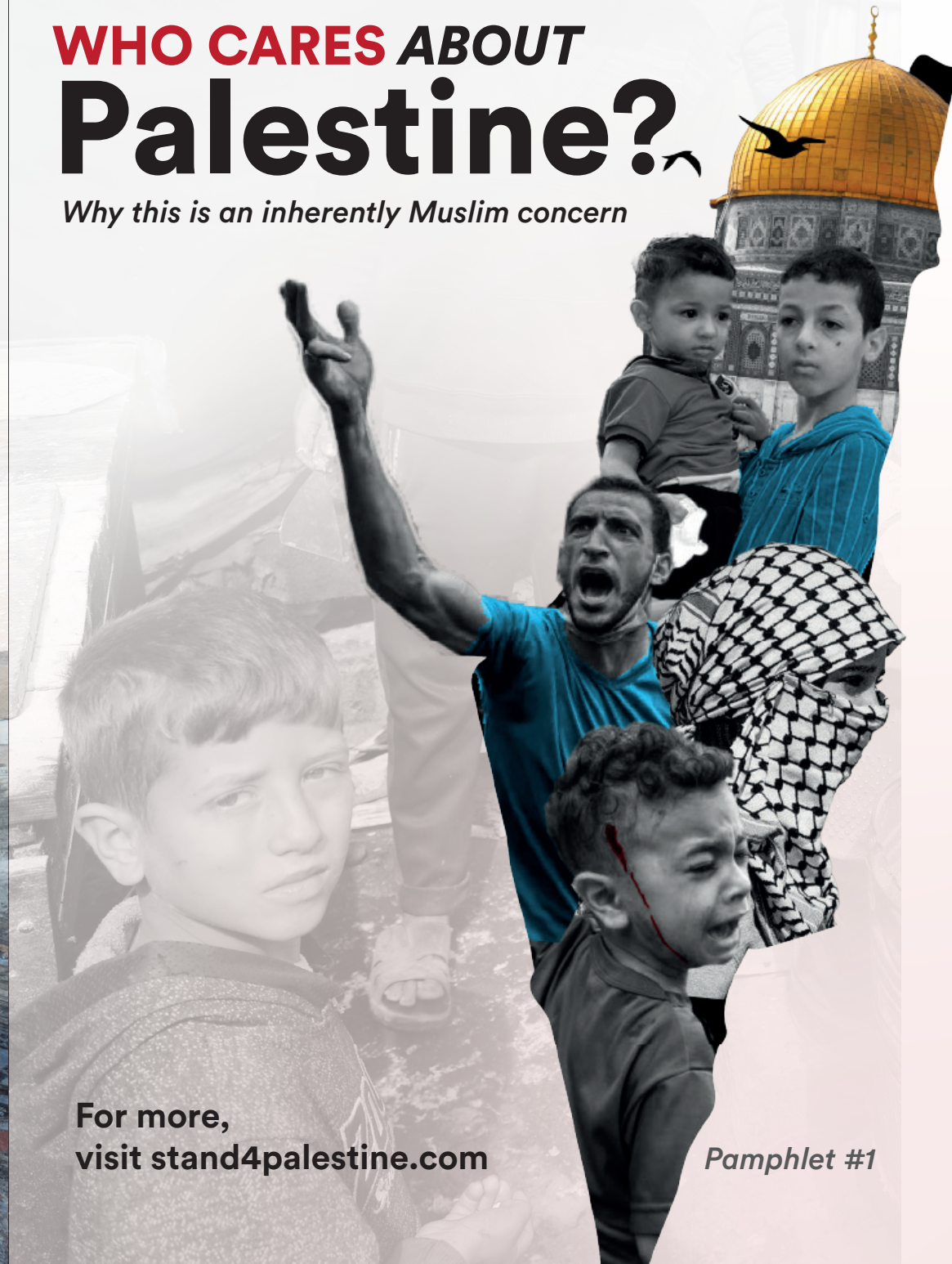
Read the inside of this pamphlet to learn more.



Check out Pamphlet #2 – ‘A History of the Occupation’ to learn more about how our Holy Land was taken.

WHO CARES ABOUT Palestine?

Why this is an inherently Muslim concern



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Pamphlet #1

- ▶ The occupation of Palestine is but one of many issues that our Ummah faces today. Why should we give it any particular interest, particularly given the number of problems that are present in our own lives, and our own local communities?

1 The Palestinian Issue is a Muslim Issue

When Palestine was first captured by the British, the British press celebrated with imagery of the Crusaders - but Lord Allenby quickly insisted they avoid this to avoid stirring any Islamic sentiments among the entire Ummah, insisting that this was simply part of the battle against the Ottomans alone. Over the decades, the conflict has been restricted even more – **being labelled historically as the “Arab-Israeli conflict” to restrict it to an issue of race**; then as the “Palestine-Israel conflict” to restrict it to an issue of land and indigenes; and finally, to the “ Hamas-Israel war” to restrict it to specific groups and clashes.

Despite their efforts, we recognise that Palestine has always been at the heart of Muslims and Islam.

2 The Islamic Significance of the Land

Allah ﷻ says,

Glory be to the One Who took His servant ‘Muhammad’ by night from the Sacred Mosque [Kaabah] to the Farthest Mosque [Masjid Al Aqsa] whose surroundings We have blessed, so that We may show him some of Our signs. Indeed, He alone is the All-Hearing, All-Seeing. [Al-Isra’, 1]

Masjid Al-Aqsa is mentioned by name in the Quran, and was the first Qiblah in Islam, with the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ praying in its direction for the first 14 years of his Prophethood. Al-Aqsa is the mosque at which the Prophet ﷺ arrived at during the blessed journey of Al-Isra’ wal-Mi`raj, and in which he led all of the previous prophets in prayer. From there, he ascended to heaven in a miraculous journey before meeting Allah ﷻ and receiving the command for prayer. **Masjid Al-Aqsa is the third holiest site in Islam, and prayers there are worth 500 times more than prayers elsewhere.**

The land of Palestine is the land associated with many of our Prophets, including Adam, Nuh, Ibrahim, Ya`qub, Musa, Dawud, Sulayman, and Isa (peace and blessings be upon them all).

3 Muslims are One Ummah

Allah ﷻ says,

*“Truly this Ummah of yours is one Ummah, and I am your Lord.”
[Al-Mu`minun, 52].*

While the **colonisers may have divided our lands** into many separate nations with artificial borders, as Muslims we **maintain a connection with our Muslim brothers and sisters** wherever they may be. The Prophet ﷺ said, “The parable of the believers in their affection, mercy, and compassion for each other is that of a body. When a limb aches, the whole body reacts with sleeplessness and fever.” [Bukhari and Muslim].

It was also narrated that the Messenger of Allah ﷺ was making tawaf of the Ka’bah and saying, “How delightful you are, and how great is your scent! How magnificent you are, and how great is your sanctity! But by the one in whose hand is the soul of Muhammad, **the sanctity of a believer, his wealth and his blood, is greater in the sight of Allah than your sanctity**, and we do not think of him except good.” [Ibn Majah]

Our brothers and sisters in Palestine have been subject to injustice, with their honour desecrated, their wealth and land usurped, and their blood mercilessly spilled. As Muslims, this pains us and aches us, and **we respond as if it were our honour, wealth, land, or blood which have been taken**. The occupation of Palestine concerns all Muslims equally – whether they be ethnically Palestinian, Egyptian, Pakistani, Australian, or otherwise.

4 The Heartbeat of the Ummah

Al-Aqsa and Palestine has correctly been described as the heartbeat of this Ummah – and we see that **when the issue of Al-Aqsa is active within our hearts, we are more closely connected with our Lord ﷻ and our Ummah**. Any aggression on our blessed land is a reminder to Muslims around the globe to continue seeking to implement the justice of Islam for oppressed people all over the world.