



## Newsletter June 2025

### **Lambeth Pensioners Action Group**

**Our next meeting will be on Monday 23rd June, starting at noon, when we will have a speaker from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.** This is a very topical subject, given the ongoing genocide in Gaza, but the talk will also cover Palestine more generally and what we can do locally to promote peace in the Middle East. Please see overleaf for a Palestine Primer, including the crucially important distinction between Judaism and Zionism.

**Our two recent meetings on housing** were clearly found to be informative by the members who attended. Sabine from Refurbish Don't Demolish has kindly provided a copy of her presentation. The Secretaries will be happy to forward this to any member with an email address. If you would like a copy, please email [stephencarlill@gmail.com](mailto:stephencarlill@gmail.com).



Housing campaigners estimate that **Lambeth owns 800 homes which it has kept unoccupied, in some instances for several years.** The Council does not appear ever to disclose how many empty properties it has or how long they have been empty.

**LAMPAG's officers are** Chair: Ellen Lebethe 020 7582 5063 [elebethe@talktalk.net](mailto:elebethe@talktalk.net) Secretaries: Hilary Rock-Gormley [hilaryrockgormley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:hilaryrockgormley@yahoo.co.uk) and Stephen Carlill 020 7274 7008 [stephencarlill@gmail.com](mailto:stephencarlill@gmail.com) Treasurer: Jennie Hall 020 8671 8752 [jenniekh@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniekh@hotmail.com)

**LAMPAG is affiliated to the National Pensioners Convention**

# A Palestine Primer

## Judaism, Jews and Zionism

**Judaism is the religion** of the Jews. It has diversified into a number of strands over the centuries. As Jews lived to an extent separately from their Christian or Jewish neighbours, even some of those who have no religious faith identify as Jews. In other words, Jews are an ethnic group.

**Zionism is a political movement** which originated in the nineteenth century. Its core belief is that Jews should not merely live largely separate from other ethnic groups but should have their own country, in which they would be the overwhelming majority of the population. Strictly orthodox Jews abominate Zionism. There is also strong opposition from socialist and other progressive Jews.

## The Palestinians

**Zionists claim that the entire Jewish population of Palestine was expelled from Palestine** when Palestine was part of the Roman Empire. Reputable historians reject the idea that whole populations, rather than elites, were ever exiled. Almost certainly, the Palestinians are mostly descendants of the Jews who remained in Palestine. Subsequently, many converted to Christianity, and of those a majority converted to Islam when Palestine was under Muslim rule. The rulers were tolerant of Jews and Christians but favoured Muslims in various ways, including exemption from taxes!

**DNA analyses** suggest that European Jews have little, if any, historical connection with anywhere in the Middle East.

**The mass murder of Gazans** is only the latest stage in a long-running process of ethnic cleansing which began in 1948, when Zionist militias drove three-quarters of a million Palestinians from their homes.

**Please come to our meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> to hear more.** We will have a speaker from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign's local branch to tell us about their work, including how you might get involved.

## Membership fees for 2025/26 are now overdue

The amount remains at the very reasonable rate of £10 a year. If you have not yet paid, please give the money to the Membership Secretary, Gloria Cameron, in the meeting. Alternatively, you can transfer the money direct to LAMPAG'S bank account, the number is 81491972 and the sort code is 60-03-36. If you pay this way, please quote your surname as the reference and email the date paid to our Treasurer [jenniekh@hotmail.com](mailto:jenniekh@hotmail.com).