

Ambassador Sudders
UNESCO
7 Place de Fontenoy,
75352 Paris 07 SP,
France

13th October 2016

Dear Ambassador Sudders,

We are writing to you as a British Jewish organisation committed to the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel and an end to the Israeli occupation, to protest the resolution to be discussed today at UNESCO on Jerusalem.

It is clear that the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, as a key holy site in Judaism, Islam & Christianity, is a flashpoint in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A decision by UNESCO to affirm the important Islamic connection to the site without also recognising its crucial place in Judaism as the location of the first and second Temples can only be seen as an inflammatory denial of Jewish history. Israel has a responsibility to maintain the status quo on the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif, but affirmations of that responsibility should not be tied to an international body policing the connection between peoples, religions and their holy sites.

This resolution serves only to set back the cause of peace in the region by playing into the hands of those on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict who see it is a holy war. The resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can only be achieved with an agreement that allows both peoples to reaffirm the centrality of Jerusalem to their history, religions and culture. Given that the British government's stated policy is to promote a Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, your office must actively oppose this resolution.

Yours Sincerely,



Gideon Smith (Chair

&



Hannah Weisfeld (Director)

On behalf of Yachad

CC: Middle East and North Team, Foreign and Commonwealth Office