

# WALL OR FALL?

ACTIVITY

14

## AIM

to investigate how the wall will affect lasting peace in Israel and Palestine

## AGE

13 years and older

## TIME

45 minutes

## MATERIALS

Role cards

For more information, go to:

[www.trocaire.ie](http://www.trocaire.ie)

[www.amnesty.ie](http://www.amnesty.ie)

[www.schoolsacrossborders.org](http://www.schoolsacrossborders.org)

[www.ycare.org.uk](http://www.ycare.org.uk)

## WHAT TO DO

Form five groups. Give each group copies of one of the role cards. Explain that a forum has been organised to discuss how the separation wall will affect the achievement of a lasting peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Each group has 10 minutes to discuss their role card and to prepare for the forum.

Announce that the forum is about to begin. Form new groups with one representative from each of the roles. Ask each group to appoint a chairperson. They should allow each person to make a short initial statement from the perspective of their role and then open the floor to a debate. Explain that they should try to reach agreement on up to three points raised. Allow 15-20 minutes for this.

Bring the groups back together and ask the chairperson from each group to feed back. Ask if it was easy or difficult to accommodate the different perspectives. What were the main challenges to identifying ways of achieving a lasting peace?

## ACTION

Trócaire has launched an online campaign, This Wall Must Fall, at [www.trocaire.org/wall](http://www.trocaire.org/wall) asking people to sign a petition urging the Israeli government to implement all the recommendations of the International Court of Justice in 2004, including the removal of the wall. When people sign the online petition a hole will appear in a virtual wall, symbolising the goal of demolishing the actual wall and replacing it with genuine negotiations over Palestinian land. Show your solidarity by signing your name and adding your message of support on the virtual wall.

# WALL OR FALL?

## ROLE CARDS

### AFNAN

I am a 15 year old girl and I live in Hebron in the West Bank. I believe the separation wall is intended as a permanent border by Israel that includes the settlements. Since construction of the wall was begun, it has become very difficult to keep contact with our villages and communities. It makes me very sad as I don't get to see my relatives. With this wall, we will never have a Palestinian state. In 2004, The International Court of Justice declared the Wall to be illegal. The European Union and the UN asked Israel to stop building it, but they just continue building it. I think the whole world is responsible for the separation wall and should do something about it.

### AARON

I am 16 years old and I live in Jerusalem. The separation barrier is meant to be a temporary solution. It has proved very successful. When the wall went up, the terror went down by something like 90%. That means I'm not afraid to go on a bus to school or go to public places downtown because there isn't some suicide bomber planning to blow himself up. There are definitely problems with some of the places where the wall is, villages divided and children can't get to school and I do feel sorry for them, but we need to be protected. Our security comes first. If the Palestinian terrorism stops, then we can pull it down.

### YOUSSEF

I am a farmer, just like my father and grandfather before him. I live near Beit Surik, a village north of Jerusalem, inside the West Bank. The bulldozers and soldiers came one day and destroyed all our olive trees to make way for the wall. These olive trees were hundreds of years old and are a vital source of income for us. Now even the roads are cut off from us as the wall is being built. My brother is a lorry driver, so he's practically out of a job too. The whole economy is collapsing. We just want to make our living. Now we are all angry and bitter. Nobody can defend us. They call it a security fence?! Well, instead of sowing seeds for my living, I see it sowing seeds of more conflict and violence.

### ANAT

I am a settler and a mother of three children. I live in a village called Oranit, just inside the border, in the north of the West Bank. Part of our village is surrounded by the Security Fence and we hope to see it completed as soon as possible. We are here because the Israeli government's policy is to help us come and live here. So it is their duty to protect us. Many people in the world think we shouldn't come here, but this is our land too! If this wall should become the new border, well that's the price the Palestinians pay for supporting terrorists. We are in the front line, people forget about that.

### JIM

I came here on a visit to the Holy Land with my wife Kate. We visited Nazareth and Jerusalem in Israel and Bethlehem, which is in the West Bank. It was amazing to see these holy sites, but also shocking to see this big ugly wall around Jerusalem, even more so around Bethlehem. There it comes up right into the town. You wonder what Jesus would make it of it all! I have relations in Belfast and I know all about dividing walls. That's the tragedy of conflict, isn't it? They have to sort it out themselves. I don't see much hope though. Walls are pretty hard to shift...what more can I say?