



Zionism and Anti-Zionism

Definition of Zionism

Modern Zionism began in the late 19th century as a legitimate desire and vision of the Jewish people for a national homeland. This culminated in the establishment of the sovereign state of Israel in 1948.

Therefore CCJ defines Zionism today as:

“The continuing legitimate desire and need of the Jewish people for a national homeland in the sovereign state of Israel”.

Historic Roots

The historic roots of Zionism have been a factor in Jewish spirituality since the destruction of Jerusalem in 70CE and the subsequent dispersion of Jewish communities throughout the world.

Since 70CE there has been a continuous Jewish presence in the land. The Jewish people’s connection with Jerusalem and the land of Israel is embodied in their daily liturgy and practices.

Anti-Zionism

Zionism is often misrepresented by those who oppose it. People have a right to criticise policies of the Israeli government, or actions of its citizens. Such criticism does not necessarily constitute anti-Zionism. CCJ would define as anti-Zionist those who would deny the Jewish people a legitimate homeland in Israel, and those who would deny the right of Israel to exist.

Anti-Zionism can also be used as a proxy for antisemitism. As examples of this, CCJ regards anti-Zionism as antisemitism when its proponents:

- a) Fail to promote equally self-determination of Palestinians and Israelis
- b) Wilfully use the terms “Jews” and “Israelis” and Judaism and Israeli nationality interchangeably
- c) Consider only discrimination against, or injustice to, Palestinians to the exclusion of that of Israeli Jews
- d) Judge Israel by standards which are not applied equally and impartially to all other countries.