



BETWEEN / THE / LINES

LIFE IN ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK A CENTURY AFTER BALFOUR

The displacement of three-quarters of a million Arab refugees from Israel (and of a similar number of Jews from Arab lands) during the conflict and confusion of events in the fifty years following 1917 still impacts the lives of millions today. Half a century of Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the annexation of the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem presents an enduring hardship for many. Yet the hope offered to a people persecuted over generations across Europe through the creation of a homeland for Jewish people is difficult to overestimate.

The cultural, scientific and technical achievements of Israelis in the last seven decades is astonishing by any standards. At the same time, though, non-Jewish Israeli citizens (one fifth of the country's population in what is the only fully democratic state in the Middle East) suffer discrimination. The continuing construction of settlements and non-sanctioned outposts in the occupied West Bank in breach of international law seems difficult to square with a nation committed to justice and the rule of law.

In this film Grant Barclay, a former Scottish solicitor and now a Church of Scotland minister, shares real stories through the words of those living in these lands. Visiting in the autumn of 2017, precisely a century after the Balfour Declaration, he travelled around much of Israel and the West Bank over a six week period. He also spoke to experts in the United Kingdom and obtained a range of views and perspectives, often with a Scottish dimension.

This documentary film gives a flavour of some of the issues which presently face people from a range of religious and cultural backgrounds as they seek to live in this land which is, simultaneously, one of great opportunity and considerable challenge. The stories of sanctuary and violence, and of promise and despair, have their genesis in the Balfour Declaration and the events it enabled; they remain relevant a century later.

The film lasts 50 minutes and was shot generally in full HD format and 4:2:2 colour space entirely on location in Israel, the West Bank and the United Kingdom. It is available for viewing online at:

grantbarclay.wordpress.com/between-the-lines.

A one-minute trailer is available for viewing at:

<https://youtu.be/Q3S85ESYI70>

Copies, in a range of formats, and permission for public performance, may be obtained by emailing gbarclay@churchofscotland.org.uk.

"Shows sympathetically, but clearly, the stark reality of the differences in freedom and resources between the two groups. An important message for today."

"Allows many voices to be heard in a manner sympathetic to both sides and in a way that is very balanced."

Review Quotations