

## **A statement from Hinde Street Methodist Church regarding this week's exhibition**

The exhibition is taking place as part of the World Week for Peace in Palestine and Israel and results from a member's recent visit to the area as a volunteer.

It has been carefully curated to reflect the issues of divided communities within Israel and Palestine and to promote reflection and prayers for peace.

The exhibition features a replica checkpoint, along with photographs and accounts. The display seeks to explore aspects of human rights and dignity. It has been put together on the basis of principled impartiality, putting concern for human rights above support of any particular group by referring to international law. There is no criticism or judgement of the Jewish community or faith.

A letter sent to a local synagogue regarding the exhibition does not seem to have got through. This is deeply regrettable, as it would have allowed earlier conversation and dialogue which was the church's intention.

Following dialogue with the Board of Deputies of British Jews in recent days, the church has included a statement about the Israeli government's position within the exhibition and there is a space for a display of leaflets within the church. We are also in discussion with the Board about including an event on Thursday which will include a range of perspectives.

We would encourage people of all faiths, and those of none, to come and form their own views and welcome comments on the exhibition as part of constructive debate.

Hinde Street Methodist Church is dedicated to constructive ongoing dialogue between all faiths and denominations to bring about peace and dignity for all in the world. We hope that this exhibition will form part of that ongoing dialogue.