

# COMMUNITY FORUM: THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT: PERSPECTIVES AND DIALOGUE ON RECENT EVENTS

## Structure of Forum

(Shepherd University, Nov. 16, 2023, 7 to 8:30 pm, Storer Ballroom/3<sup>rd</sup> floor)

- 1. Welcome Remarks:** Dr. Robert Tudor/Interim Provost and VP of Academic Affairs/Shepherd U: (3 minutes)
- 2. Overview of Forum:** Objectives, Panelists & Structure: Richard Anson – Co-Organizer (2 minutes + see handout)  
Forum Objectives: (with a participatory approach)

- To learn about the underlying causes of the current Israeli-Hamas war, within the broader context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;
- To learn how Israelis and Palestinians perceive the broader conflict, current Gaza war, and its effects; and
- To participate in constructive dialogue/learning, and to learn avenues of engagement in our communities.

### 3. Panelist Perspectives on Guide Questions

Guide Questions (3) for Panelists (4): 36 minutes (about 12 minutes per question)

Question 1: What are your perspectives on context, MAJOR underlying issues, causes and possible effects (medium to long term) of the I-P conflict, and the current Israeli-Hamas war?

Panelist Perspectives: 12 minutes, 3 minutes per panelist (4)

Question 2: How do the parties on the ground in Israeli & Gaza/West Bank understand the conflict and its effects?

Panelist Perspectives: 12 minutes, 3 minutes per panelist (4)

Question 3: What are some examples of constructive practices/engagements and ways that tonight's participants can engage on this complex issue at the community level?

Panelist Perspectives: 12 minutes, 3 minutes per panelist (4)

### 4. Small Group/Participant Discussion (at @ table): 20 minutes, based on 3 suggested questions/linked to panelists

- Is there any information that you heard from the panelists that surprised you? And/or disagreed, additional?
- Are there key points that were shared that enhanced your understanding of the I-P conflict and the current Israeli-Hamas war, its effects and good practices for positive engagement?
- What opportunities do you see where you can engage at the community level to support those affected by the I-P conflict and the current Israeli-Hamas war, and constructive engagement by the USA? See suggested links.

**5. Plenary Summary of Group Discussions:** Brief Highlights of Key Themes/Messages arising from Small Group Discussions (about 1 minute per table, for about 20 minutes; not intended to be detailed, but to highlight key points).

**6. Panelist responses to participant feedback/messages:** Panelists (8 minutes: 2 minutes per panelist)

**7. Closing Remarks** – Richard Anson (1 - 2 minutes)

**Participants are invited to enjoy the Middle-Eastern finger foods and informal discussion** (until about 9 PM)

**Acknowledgements:** We are grateful for: Shepherd U. being our forum host; in-person and zoom participants; professional logistical and website/video/recording support from: Nick Mummert (Shepherd U.) and Bill Howard (Rotary Club of Shepherdstown); SU students (Rotaract Club) for their logistical support; and various community co-sponsoring organizations. Forum will be recorded and available on the website: [isc.shepherdstownrotary.org/forum](http://isc.shepherdstownrotary.org/forum).