

Briefing for the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee on petition [PE2169](#): Facilitate a review and upgrade of the teaching resource ‘Palestine and Israel, understanding the conflict’, lodged by Hugh Mitchell Humphries on behalf of Scottish Friends of Palestine

Brief overview of issues raised by the petition

In 2021, the petitioner lodged [PE1879: Provide an accessible and professionally developed learning and teaching resource on Israel and Palestine](#). PE1879 also referenced the teaching resource, ‘Palestine and Israel, understanding the conflict’.

The Committee closed PE1879, “on the basis that the Curriculum for Excellence does not prescribe set topics and allows local authorities and individual schools to develop curricula informed by the local needs of learners; and the Scottish Government states that both it and Education Scotland consider their involvement in the resources to be closed”.

Teachers’ use of resources

Under Curriculum for Excellence, schools and teachers are free to develop their own curricular resources or to use or adapt resources from anywhere they wish. The resources teachers utilise is largely a matter for professional judgement.

Education Scotland provides a range of guidance, including [on developing pupils’ political literacy](#). This includes supporting practitioners to deal with controversial issues.

The teaching resource referred to in this petition is [hosted on the EIS website](#). The [Scottish Government’s submission to the previous petition sets out a timeline of events in relation to the development of the resource and its adoption by EIS](#).

The petitioner indicated that a working group had been convened in June 2024 to review and update the resource. SPICe contacted the EIS on this matter. The EIS noted that it now owns the resource and it is not aware of any such working group.

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Senior Researcher
26 June 2025

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