

In whose Interest?

Issue 2 | October 2026

A monthly
investigation into
outside influences
on Britain

I
W
I



MONEY, ACCESS & POLITICAL INFLUENCE

Britain, Palestine & Israel



quisopprimit.com

In this issue...

- 3 - Editorial
- 4 - Money, access & action
- 8 - From UKIP to Reform TV
- 10 - Rosa Mundi
- 12 - A laugh in serious times
- 14 - Israel election 2026
- 19 - Carefully taught

IWI Team

Editor: L. Hilton
Deputy Editor: Aisling Rowan
Cartoon: Rosa Mundi, AI assisted

Published by Quisopprimit
© Quisopprimit 2026

Brief...

Redbridge Labour's pensions exposed



Redbridge Green Cllr Sue Whitehead has exposed the council's pension fund investments, showing tens of millions pumped into tobacco, arms, fossil fuels and supply chains to Israel and West Bank settler communities

Sue told us, "We know pension divestment by councils was a huge lever in beating South African apartheid in the 1980s. When Redbridge Council alone has a £1 billion pension fund this is serious leverage that can and should be applied to stop the genocide in Gaza and protect our planet from burning up because of fossil fuels".

Go to greensassemble.com/invest for more details.

Editorial

October is here already and, as far as international news is concerned, it is largely a case of *plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose*.

Donald Trump, with his usual pomposity and bluster, presents the new United States arrangements with Denmark and Greenland as his own initiative. Yet the United States has maintained a military presence there for decades. Denmark's announcement recognises the kingdom's sovereignty and territorial integrity and Greenlandic self-determination. Trump may claim a personal triumph; the history tells a more complicated story.

A restrained breath of fresh air came from Ed Miliband, Foreign Secretary in the Burnham Government, announcing measures against trade and support connected with illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. They include plans for a settlement-goods import ban, service restrictions and further sanctions. Announcement and legal commencement must be distinguished.

It is a step in the right direction, although pro-Palestinian campaigners of all faiths and none reasonably argue that it remains too little and too late. Chief Rabbi Sir Ephraim Mirvis called the measures a dark day for British Jews and warned they could embolden antisemitism. Miliband publicly disagreed.

Antisemitism is real, dangerous and entirely unacceptable. But criticism of the Israeli government is not criticism of Jewish people, who should never be held responsible for its actions.

British Jewish opinion is diverse. Jewish organisations and individuals have long expressed sharply differing views about occupation, settlements, Zionism and Palestinian rights. No single religious or political leader speaks for every Jewish person. The continuing treatment of Palestinians must be considered in the light of the Torah's demands for justice and protection of the stranger, as well as international humanitarian law.

In this issue we continue to ask who provides political money, who gains access and what decisions follow. We also look at an Israeli election whose consequences reach far beyond those entitled to vote.

Division serves those who profit from fear and exploitation. Our differences do not weaken us; they enrich our collective life. United, we are stronger.

L Hilton

Money, access & action

What a declaration tells us - and what still needs to be established

Political money can buy staff time, research, office space, travel and a louder public voice. Those resources deserve scrutiny, even when every transaction is properly declared. The public question is not answered by a donation total alone.

Three separate questions

Money: who provided support, to whom, in what form, on what date and for what stated purpose? Cash donations, outside earnings, hospitality and estimated benefits in kind must remain separate.

Access: did the support involve meetings, visits, hospitality, staffing or research assistance? A relationship can be documented without assuming that it secured privileged treatment.

Action: what did the politician subsequently say, vote for or decide? Hansard, division records, written answers and ministerial announcements provide a separate record. Chronology helps us ask questions; it does not by itself prove causation.

The September evidence

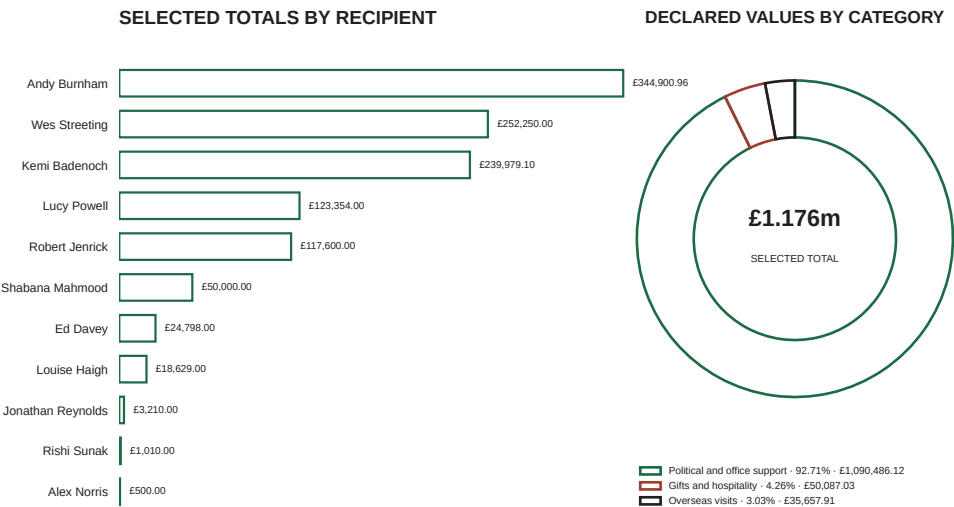
Our 25 September research pack captured selected senior office-holders' Commons declarations. It is a person-and-office-led sample, covering support, hospitality and overseas visits where detailed entries were reliably captured. It is not an export of the whole House of Commons.

The earlier 17 August extract used a narrower search for named organisations. It contained 38 records involving 36 MPs and £179,110.99. Its scope differs from the new senior cohort, so the two headline totals cannot honestly be presented as a rise in funding.

Money, access & action

What the sample records

Declared values in selected Register categories | Snapshot: 25 September 2026



The pack reproduces 85 entries, including one £2,500 donation marked returned. That item is excluded from these totals. Cash, indirect funding and estimated benefits in kind are included; outside earnings are excluded. These are selected-category totals, not personal income or findings of wrongdoing.

The support behind the offices

Selected Labour declarations | Parties and offices at the September cut-off

Andy Burnham, Labour (Co-op), Makerfield; Prime Minister. The research snapshot records £344,900.96 in selected support and hospitality. His official Register describes an Ernst & Young secondment valued at £16,500, received on 1 July. This is estimated staff support rather than cash retained personally. Lord Sainsbury of Turville’s entries include office space valued at £23,024.92, campaign contractors at £66,622.50 and policy-and-operations contractors at £49,700.

Money, access & action

A separate £25,000 entry is for leadership campaigning. Those different descriptions matter: each says what resource was provided and to which activity. A £25,000 donation from Gary Lubner is also described as leadership-campaign support. These declarations document funding and capacity. They do not establish that any donor determined a policy.

Wes Streeting, Labour, Ilford North; Defence Secretary. The dated pack records £252,250 in selected support. OPD Group Ltd is recorded as providing £55,000 for constituency-office staffing, with instalments to December 2026. Several other entries state no purpose, which should be reported as an absence of description, not treated as proof of an undisclosed bargain.

Lucy Powell and Shabana Mahmood. Powell, Labour (Co-op), Manchester Central; Education Secretary: £123,354 in the sample, spanning campaign and office support plus hospitality. Small Axe Communications supplied staff time valued at £20,000. **Mahmood, Labour, Birmingham Ladywood; Home Secretary:** £50,000 remains in the selected total. The separate £2,500 Manjit Jhooty donation was recorded as returned in full on 15 October 2025 and is excluded.

Opposition hospitality and earnings

Selected declarations across parties - and the limits of comparison

Kemi Badenoch, Conservative, North West Essex; Leader of the Opposition.

The sample totals £239,979.10 across support, hospitality and overseas visits. It includes £41,812.50 from Charles Keymer for a staff salary and £50,000 from J.C. Bamford Excavators Ltd for support as Conservative leader.

A News Corp-funded Greece visit, 24-26 August, is declared at £8,177.95 for meetings with Rupert Murdoch and senior executives. The separate Hoover Institution US visit is valued at £27,479.96. Neither travel valuation should be mistaken for salary.

Money, access & action

Robert Jenrick and Ed Davey. Jenrick, Reform UK, Newark; former Cabinet minister: £117,600 in selected support and hospitality. The pack includes £50,000 from Michael Cohen for MP duties and £30,000 from Vikram Kumar for MP activities. **Davey, Liberal Democrat, Kingston and Surbiton; party leader:** £24,798 across the selected support and hospitality categories. The same method is applied to government and opposition.

Why outside earnings stay separate

Rishi Sunak, Conservative, Richmond and Northallerton; former Prime Minister, has a selected hospitality total of £1,010. His advisory work, speaking payments and other remuneration are recorded elsewhere in the research pack. Some entries specify charity destinations; annualised estimates are not the same as cash retained during the period.

Combining annual contract estimates, one-off tickets, travel reimbursement and campaign staffing into a single personal-income figure would obscure what the Register actually says.

What remains open

Detailed capture was incomplete for some Cabinet members and the former prime minister's Starmer page. No item located is not equivalent to no interests. A fully checked comparison of the 7 September edition with the earlier extract remains outstanding; we make no claim that this issue supplies that comparison.

Sources

House of Commons Register of Members' Financial Interests. Research snapshot dated 25 September 2026. <https://members.parliament.uk/members/commons/interests/publications>

Individual Register pages: [https://members.parliament.uk/member/\[ID\]/registeredinterests](https://members.parliament.uk/member/[ID]/registeredinterests). Member IDs: Andy Burnham 1427; Wes Streeting 4504; Kemi Badenoch 4597; Lucy Powell 4263; Robert Jenrick 4320; Shabana Mahmood 3914; Ed Davey 188; Rishi Sunak 4483.

UK Government Declared Interests Print Pack, 25 September 2026; earlier 17 August extract. The selections use different scopes.

Offices and appointments: GOV.UK ministerial roster and Parliament opposition pages, at the September research cut-off. <https://www.gov.uk/government/ministers>

From UKIP to Reform TV

Farage's political vehicles, wealthy backers and a proposed media platform

Nigel Farage's career is often described as a succession of new parties. The history is more precise: UKIP continued after he left, while the Brexit Party became Reform UK. Restore Britain is now a rival led by Rupert Lowe, not another Farage organisation.

Before UKIP

Farage began as a Conservative and left in 1992 during the dispute over the Maastricht Treaty. Alan Sked's Anti-Federalist League, founded in 1991, preceded the creation of UKIP in 1993. Farage was a founding UKIP member; the earlier organisation should not simply be described as a party he invented.

UKIP

Farage became an MEP in 1999 and led UKIP from 2006 to 2009 and again from 2010 to 2016. It won the largest UK vote share in the 2014 European Parliament election. The 2015 general election exposed a different electoral system: a substantial national vote translated into only one Commons seat. Farage left UKIP in December 2018. He criticised its association with Tommy Robinson and its direction under Gerard Batten. UKIP did not dissolve or rename itself Reform: it remained a separate organisation.

The Brexit Party becomes Reform

Farage joined the Brexit Party in 2019, and it led the UK vote in that year's European Parliament election. At the December general election it stood aside in Conservative-held seats and won no Commons seats.

In January 2021 the Brexit Party changed its name to Reform UK. Richard Tice led it before Farage returned to the leadership in June 2024. Reform won five Commons seats at the 2024 general election, including Farage's Clacton seat.

From UKIP to Reform TV

Bitcoin and the billionaires

In September, Ben Delo and Christopher Harborne each announced £36 million in support for Reform UK. Reporting on 12-13 September described the two gifts as £72 million in total. The scale gives a political party considerable capacity to employ organisers, develop policies and sustain campaigning.

Wealth is not the payment method

Delo co-founded the cryptocurrency trading platform BitMEX. Harborne is also associated with cryptocurrency investment. Those connections explain the description crypto billionaires; they do not establish that the two £36 million donations were transferred in Bitcoin.

Sky's 12 September report stated that Delo's gift had been paid upfront. His £1-million-a-month comparison described the period it was intended to cover, rather than proving a monthly instalment arrangement. The exact received amount and payment method should ultimately be checked against the party's official returns.

A separate policy connection

Reform announced in 2025 that it would accept eligible cryptocurrency donations and published a proposed Cryptoassets and Digital Finance Bill. Its proposals include a 10 per cent capital-gains-tax rate for cryptoassets, a government Bitcoin reserve and acceptance of crypto for tax payments. These are party proposals, not a description of current law.

The fact that a donor works in an industry and a party proposes policies relevant to it invites scrutiny. It does not, without further evidence, prove that the donor purchased those policies.

The party's response

Reform said the donors would receive no peerage, knighthood or government contract in return. Harborne's separate £5 million personal gift to Farage is not part of the party-donation total. Farage says it was not political and denies wrongdoing; parliamentary scrutiny is a separate matter.

A party with its own channel

Rosa Mundi



OVER HERE...

ers who made Britain British.

SAME PEOPLE
DIFFERENT BOATS
A BRIGHTER
BRITAIN

MIGRANTS
ALWAYS HAVE.
MIGRANTS
ALWAYS WILL.

4. ANGLES, SAXONS AND JUTES

Coming over here—
calling the place
England!

ENGLAND?

5. THEODORE OF TARSUS

A Greek-speaking
archbishop from
the eastern
Mediterranean.

CANTERBURY

Coming over
here—
preaching
Christianity!

8. DUTCH ENGINEERS

Reclaiming
Canvey Island
from marshland.

CANVEY ISLAND
(ONCE A MARSH)

Foreign
drainage experts!
Whatever
next?

9. HUGUENOTS

Huguenot refugees
bringing silk-weaving
skills.

THE FRENCH
HOSPITAL
(FOUNDED 1718)

Weaving SILK—
very foreign!

BRUNNER MOND & Co.
CHEMICAL WORKS

Ideas, skills
and enterprise
from across
Europe—
helping to
build the Britain
we know.

A STEP
TOWARDS
ICI
AND A MORE
MODERN
BRITAIN

Hrmp!

12. NORFOLK / THETFORD — TODAY

THETFORD
ALL OUR STORES
LIVE HERE

BE MORE
CURIOUS
LESS
AFRAID

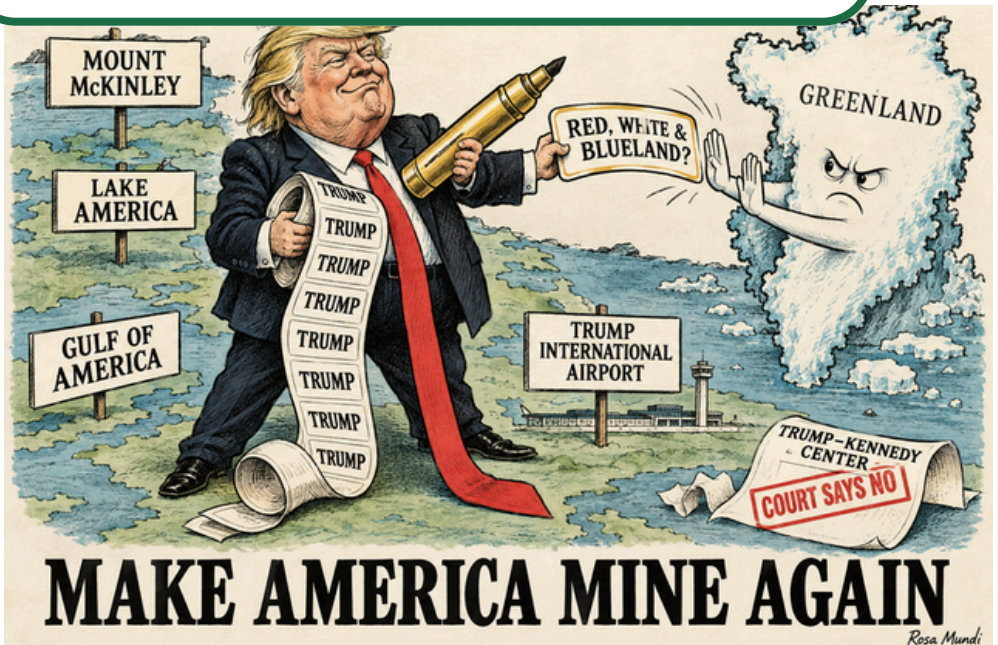
KEEP
BRITAIN
BRITISH

WHICH ONE OF US IS 'US'?

MORES. A RICHER BRITAIN.

HISTORY ARRIVES BY BOAT—
AND STAYS.

A laugh in serious times



From UKIP to Reform TV

The proposed Reform TV

September reporting describes plans for a Reform-branded video operation on YouTube, commonly called Reform TV. The Times reported the proposed venture on 20 September. It should be described as a reported plan, without implying that a new licensed television station is already broadcasting.

A party's own channel can give it direct contact with supporters and control over presenters, topics and framing. That makes the distinction between party publicity and independent reporting especially important. Viewers should be able to see who owns, funds and controls the programme.

The rules depend on the service

The TV label does not make an ordinary YouTube channel an Ofcom-licensed broadcaster. Online publishing remains subject to relevant law and platform rules. Regulatory duties depend on the actual service and format.

The questions remain: who pays, whether expenditure appears in party accounts, who exercises editorial control, and whether campaigning is presented as independent news.

Restore Britain is a rival

Rupert Lowe, elected for Reform in Great Yarmouth in 2024, launched Restore Britain first as a movement in 2025 and then as a national political party in February 2026. Its own website identifies Lowe as its leader. It is not a renamed UKIP or another Farage-led party.

Competition within the right can change who receives attention, money and votes. Shared positions on immigration do not make every organisation the same, and claims about links to street groups require their own evidence. Clacton and the larger question

The official result of the 13 August by-election records 22,239 votes for Farage and 9,455 for Count Binface. Re-election settled the constituency contest; it did not answer every question about money or disclosure.

Who provides the money, who gains access, what policies follow - and in whose interest?

From UKIP to Reform TV

Sources

UK Parliament Clacton election result; European Parliament Farage history; Commons Library election briefings. <https://members.parliament.uk/constituency/3989/election/559>
Sky News, 12 September 2026. <https://news.sky.com/story/reform-uk-given-record-36m-donation-from-crypto-billionaire-ben-delo-13584676>
ITV, 13 September 2026; The Times, Reform YouTube plans, 20 September 2026; Restore Britain's own website and statement.
Reform UK, proposed Cryptoassets and Digital Finance Bill. <https://www.reformparty.uk/Reform-crypto-bill.pdf>

Israel election 2026

Who gets to stand and who gets to decide?

Israel votes on 27 October for a 120-seat Knesset. No clear governing coalition has emerged from the polls. Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar has challenged Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud, but the largest party will not necessarily form the government.

The system and the arithmetic

Israel elects the 120 members of the Knesset through one nationwide system of proportional representation. A list must receive at least 3.25 per cent of valid votes, usually equivalent to four seats. Votes cast for lists that fall below that threshold win no representation. No party has ever won 61 seats by itself, so the decisive contest begins after polling day, when party leaders try to assemble a coalition able to command a majority.

The nationwide election uses closed party lists. Voters choose a list, whose candidates enter the Knesset in their published rank order. The Bader-Ofer allocation method distributes seats; qualifying lists may agree to share surplus votes. Neither a local constituency nor a personal vote for prime minister is involved.

Israel election 2026

What changed on 2 October

The Supreme Court reversed the exclusions of Ra'am, the Joint List and Ofer Cassif. Sami Abu Shehadeh withdrew after judges indicated they were likely to uphold his disqualification. The September committee votes therefore did not become final bans on the two main Arab-led lists.

The filed lists

On 27 September the Central Elections Committee approved ballot letters for all 38 submitted lists, with the Arab lists then subject to the court proceedings. The ruling restores their participation; the remaining political question is how votes translate into a coalition.

Election and exclusion

The committee votes, the legal test and the Supreme Court outcome

On 23 September the Central Elections Committee voted 18 to 5 to exclude Ra'am and, separately, 18 to 5 to exclude the Joint List. It also approved individual exclusions of Hadash member Ofer Cassif and Balad leader Sami Abu Shehadeh.

The applications relied on section 7A of the Basic Law on the Knesset. It allows a candidate or list to be barred for rejecting Israel as a Jewish and democratic state, inciting racism, or supporting armed struggle by an enemy state or terrorist organisation. Ra'am and the Joint List reject the accusations and argue that the evidence does not meet the Supreme Court's demanding test of clear, convincing and unequivocal proof. The Attorney General opposed the exclusions of Ra'am and Cassif, but supported the case against Abu Shehadeh, principally because of an article he published on 8 October 2023. He says the article did not endorse the Hamas attack and was written before its scale was known.

The outcome, not just the application

The appeals were lodged on 29 September and heard by the Supreme Court on 1 October. On 2 October the court overturned the bans on Ra'am, the Joint List and Cassif. Abu Shehadeh withdrew after the court signalled that his exclusion would probably be upheld; his withdrawal made that question moot.

Israel election 2026

A striking contrast

The same committee rejected attempts to bar Yair Golan's Democrats, Itamar Ben-Gvir's Otzma Yehudit and the joint Religious Zionism and Zehut list led by Bezalel Smotrich and Moshe Feiglin. The vote on excluding Otzma Yehudit was defeated by 19 to 10; the petition against Religious Zionism and Zehut was defeated by 21 to 3. Petitions against the far-right lists cited statements alleged to incite racism, Ben-Gvir's earlier convictions for incitement to racism and support for a terrorist organisation, and proposals concerning the destruction of Gaza and the removal of its Palestinian population.

The polling arithmetic

Kan poll published 27 September 2026 | Seats, not election results

ISRAELI ELECTION POLL — SEATS BY BLOC

MAIN OPPOSITION

52 SEATS



NETANYAHU-ALIGNED

52 SEATS



ARAB LISTS

12 SEATS



OUTSIDE MAIN BLOCS

4 SEATS



Israel election 2026

The same survey put Netanyahu only one point ahead of Eisenkot as preferred prime minister, by 39 per cent to 38 per cent. A Reuters polling average dated 22 September instead placed Yashar two percentage points ahead of Likud and gave parties opposed to Netanyahu 64 seats against 49 for parties supporting him. That still did not amount to a workable coalition because some opposition leaders remain unwilling to rely on Arab-party support. The lesson is not that one poll must be right and another wrong, but that the contest remains volatile and coalition promises matter as much as headline seat totals.

Total: 120 seats. This survey predates the 2 October ruling. Fieldwork dates should be checked in the original poll before treating the publication date as the survey period.

Security power and survival

Replacing a prime minister does not necessarily replace policy. Netanyahu is campaigning under the slogan Netanyahu does not surrender and again presents himself as the leader best able to protect Israel. That argument is harder to sustain after the security collapse of 7 October 2023. Eisenkot, a former military chief who lost his son in Gaza, can challenge Netanyahu on security without appearing to come from the traditional left.

New reports alleging that officials in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates warned Netanyahu of a serious threat from Gaza before the attack have dominated recent coverage. Netanyahu denies receiving advance knowledge of the Hamas operation and Likud calls the reports a politically motivated smear. His opponents are demanding the independent state commission of inquiry that his government has so far refused to establish for its own conduct, although the military and security services have conducted internal inquiries.

The election also turns on the Gaza war, the fate of hostages and prisoners, regional conflict, ultra-Orthodox exemptions from military service, the powers of the courts, the cost of living, settlement expansion and Israel's deepening international isolation. A change of prime minister would not automatically mean a change of policy towards Palestinians. Much of the anti-Netanyahu opposition is also hawkish, while Ben-Gvir and Smotrich are campaigning for still more explicit programmes of annexation, settlement and Palestinian emigration.

Israel election 2026

Who can build a majority

The two Arab-led lists can now contest the election. Their support may still be rejected by opposition leaders who need extra seats to reach 61. A majority against Netanyahu is not the same as a coalition agreement to replace him.

Deadlock can leave Netanyahu in office. Whether opposition leaders accept Arab-party support is a political decision as well as an arithmetic problem.

Who has a vote

Citizenship, residence and the people affected without a national vote
Israeli citizens aged 18 or over may vote if they are on the register. Prisoners and detainees can vote at polling stations inside prisons. Most citizens abroad must travel to Israel to vote; overseas voting is generally restricted to diplomats and other authorised emissaries. On 30 September the Elections Committee announced a hearing for 6 October on Likud's complaint against organisations helping expatriate Israelis arrange travel home. Likud alleges a breach of party-finance rules; the Fly and Vote organisers say they are non-partisan and do not pay travellers' fares.

Israeli citizens living in settlements in the occupied West Bank vote in the Knesset election. Palestinians living around them do not, unless they hold Israeli citizenship. Most Palestinian residents of occupied East Jerusalem hold permanent-resident rather than citizen status and cannot vote in national elections. Palestinian citizens of Israel can vote, and their lists' participation was confirmed by the Supreme Court on 2 October. The result will therefore affect millions of Palestinians who have no vote in choosing the Israeli government that exercises extensive power over their lives.

The overseas exceptions

The special overseas arrangements cover eligible state employees and employees posted by named national institutions: the Jewish Agency, World Zionist Organization, Jewish National Fund and Keren Hayesod, with qualifying spouses. This is an employment-based exception for eligible citizens. It does not create a voting category based on Zionist belief.

Israel election 2026

What will decide the result

With the main Arab lists reinstated, attention turns to turnout, small parties near the 3.25 per cent threshold, and the coalition conditions of Eisenkot, Bennett, Lieberman, Golan and Arab-party leaders. Millions of Palestinians under occupation still have no vote in the government exercising extensive power over their lives.

The largest party on 27 October will not necessarily govern. The decisive questions are who can build a majority, whose support they are willing to accept, and whether every major political community is permitted to appear on the ballot in the first place.

Sources

Central Elections Committee candidate portal and time--table-26; Knesset Bader-Ofer guidance; official special-voting information. <https://www.gov.il/en/pages/candidates-lists-26>
Reuters polling tracker, 22 September 2026. <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-ELECTION/POLLS/lgvdbwrakvo/>
Kan poll published 27 September 2026; Jerusalem Post report, 28 September 2026; Reuters campaign report, 29 September 2026.
Court update: Reuters, 2 October 2026. Earlier committee decisions and appeals: Times of Israel, 24 September 2026; Jerusalem Post, 29 September 2026. <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/israeli-court-pressure-pushes-israeli-arab-leader-quit-election-race-2026-10-02/>
Washington Post, 29 September 2026. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2026/09/29/reports-that-netanyahu-ignored-oct-7-warnings-dominate-israeli-election/>
Times of Israel, expatriate-voting complaint, 30 September 2026. The court position is updated to 2 October 2026.

Carefully taught

How prejudice is normalised - and how solidarity can answer it

Such hatred does not arise spontaneously. Racism is taught, normalised and reinforced - in families, classrooms, newspapers, political speeches and public institutions. In South Pacific, Oscar Hammerstein II put the point into six unforgettable words: "You've got to be carefully taught."

Carefully taught

The histories of Israel and occupied Palestine, the United States and the United Kingdom are not identical. Yet across these different societies we can examine recurring methods: whole populations portrayed as dangerous, hostile language repeated until it sounds ordinary, unequal treatment presented as necessary, and division exploited for votes, power or profit.

Antisemitism, anti-Palestinian racism, Islamophobia, anti-Black racism and hostility towards migrants may overlap, but they are not interchangeable. Criticism of a government, ideology or military action must never become collective blame against a people, faith or ethnicity.

Dover rhetoric becomes mobilisation

On 5 September masked anti-immigration protesters blocked roads around the Port of Dover. ITV reported that police engaged with the protesters, that no arrests were made during the incident, and that port traffic later returned to normal. The subsequent ITV report identified Patriot Platform in coverage of the action.

This case raises questions about mobilisation and policing. A sound comparison must match conduct, risk, location and the powers actually used. The absence of arrests on the day does not establish either a lawful protest or an unlawful police response.

We must answer division with solidarity across race, colour, faith, class, gender, sexuality, nationality and immigration status. Our differences enrich our collective life. Together, we can defend one another and turn solidarity into action. United, we are stronger.

Sources

ITV Meridian reports, 5 and 6 September 2026; original Dover working research.
<https://www.itv.com/news/meridian/2026-09-05/masked-protesters-block-port-of-dover>
Oscar Hammerstein II, South Pacific. The quoted lyric is six words.