



www.shaftsburyvt.gov

# Town of Shaftsbury

Municipal Offices at Cole Hall

PO Box 409  
61 Buck Hill Road  
Shaftsbury, VT  
05262-0409  
(802) 442-4038



On February 17<sup>th</sup> the Shaftsbury Select Board voted to join the Apartheid-Free Community Movement.

**VERMONTERS WANT TO FUND CARING, NOT KILLING**  
In 2024 alone, \$27,647,196 of Vermonters' tax money went to funding Israel's weapons when it could have instead funded flood relief, affordable housing, school teacher salaries, healthcare, and more.

**WE WITNESS OUR VIOLENCE BOOMERANG BACK TO US**  
The violence that U.S. supports and funds in Palestine will always boomerang back home to our neighborhoods. Funding the dehumanization of Palestinians contributed to the anti-Arab violence we witnessed when 3 Palestinian students were shot in Burlington in 2023.

**WE KNOW WE MUST PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH**  
We must defend our democratic right to speak up and oppose unjust government actions. We have witnessed our country's government attempt to stop people from speaking up about genocide, including when Palestinian student Mohsen Mahdawi was abducted by ICE in Vermont in 2025.

**FROM VERMONT TO PALESTINE ALL PEOPLE ARE EQUAL AND SHOULD BE FREE, TREATED WITH DIGNITY & RESPECT**

**40+ COMMUNITIES AROUND VERMONT HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE PLEDGE**

**TOWNS & CITIES**  
Winooski, Brattleboro, Newfane, Thetford, Plainfield

**LABOR UNIONS**  
AFSCME 1674 Howard Center Union, UE 255 Local Hunger Mountain Co-op Union, Vermont Workers' Center + more

**COMMUNITIES**  
Free Her, The Peace and Justice Center, Migrant Justice, Education Justice Coalition of Vermont, Ascension Lutheran Church, Episcopal Diocese of Vermont + more

**BUSINESSES**  
Haymaker Buns, Marshfield Village Store, Otter Creek Yoga + more

**JOIN THE APARTHEID FREE COMMUNITY MOVEMENT!**

**THE PLEDGE:**

**WE AFFIRM**  
our commitment to freedom, justice, and equality for the Palestinian people and all people;

**WE OPPOSE**  
all forms of racism, bigotry, discrimination, and oppression; and

**WE DECLARE**  
ourselves an Apartheid-free community and to that end,

**WE PLEDGE**  
to join others in working to end all support to Israel's Apartheid regime, settler colonialism, and military occupation.

**This pledge is based on the language of the International Apartheid Free Community campaign which, we are part of.**

**JOIN OUR NEWSLETTER, ATTEND AN EVENT, & LEARN MORE**  
[www.vermontcpl.org](http://www.vermontcpl.org)  
[apartheidfree@vermontcpl.org](mailto:apartheidfree@vermontcpl.org)

**VERMONT COALITION FOR PALESTINIAN LIBERATION**

**APARTHEID FREE COMMUNITY**



## APARTHEID IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY

The 1973 UN International Convention on Apartheid defined it as a system of separation or segregation for domination (based on race, creed, or ethnicity) that is legally enforced and entails the commission of inhuman acts as part of that system. In occupied Palestine, this looks like restricted movement, forced expulsion and home demolitions, denial of voting rights, and much more.

Both Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have issued reports documenting that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid. And the International Court of Justice declared that the Israeli military occupation is illegal, that Israel's discriminatory laws and policies constitute apartheid, and that states must stop enabling Israel's human rights violations.

## PALESTINIAN LOSS OF LAND FROM 1947 TO 2023



## OUR MISSION

Our goal is to build our network of Apartheid-Free Communities across the state and the region. As we make Vermont apartheid-free, we change the narrative on Palestine, demonstrate that Palestine is a local issue, and build the movement for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) to undermine U.S. and international support for Israeli apartheid and genocide.



## DECLARING YOUR GROUP "APARTHEID-FREE" IS BOTH

**A DECLARATION OF VALUES** Affirming that your community opposes Israeli apartheid and all forms of discrimination;

**A CALL TO ACTION** & Committing to act as a community to dismantle U.S. support for Israeli apartheid and all other violence.

## COMMUNITIES CAN DECIDE WHAT ACTION IS MOST EFFECTIVE FOR THEM

By taking the apartheid-free pledge, your community commits to taking action against apartheid. How to do that is up to your community and your context. You may do education and commit to speaking out, and ensuring that Palestine is always included in our broader movement struggles. For many communities this can also mean engaging in boycott or divestment actions.

