**BORN UNEQUAL ABROAD**

**HANNAH**
JEWISH AMERICAN
BORN IN THE U.S.

**LEILA**
PALESTINIAN REFUGEE
BORN IN LEBANON

**CAN I VISIT ISRAEL & THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY?**

**YES**
You can visit Israel and most of the West Bank, and you'll find programs that may help fund your trip

**NO**
You are barred from entry to Israel, the West Bank or Gaza

**CAN I MOVE THERE?**

**YES**
Because you're Jewish, the 1950 Law of Return guarantees your right to live in Israel. Plus, you'll get a free flight and a bunch of perks if you do so

**NO**
As a Palestinian refugee, you're barred from returning and denied residency rights, even if you have family living there

**CAN I BECOME AN ISRAELI CITIZEN?**

**YES**
The 1952 Citizenship Law entitles you to automatic citizenship, even if you've never set foot in Israel before

**NO**
You are ineligible if your family became refugees between 1947 and 1949, even if they had lived there for generations before

**CAN I PASS ON MY LEGAL STATUS TO MY SPOUSE IN ISRAEL OR THE OPT?**

**YES**
Upon becoming a citizen, you can pass along legal status and even citizenship to your spouse (except if they're Palestinian from the OPT or from several Arab countries)

**NO**
You have no legal status and cannot gain one, even by marrying a citizen or resident of Israel

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The individuals depicted above are fictional representations for illustrative purposes only.

BORN UNEQUAL

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

VISUALIZING PALESTINE

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SOURCES

HRW (2021). A Threshold Crossed
Just like foreigners who move to Israel, you’re a resident, a conditional and revocable status. You can apply for citizenship, but you’re unlikely to get it. You can leave, but if you stay away too long, your residency could be revoked, leaving you without legal status.

If Israeli authorities determine that you no longer “maintain a connection” to Jerusalem, you might lose your residency.

It’s virtually impossible to obtain a building permit, and built-up Palestinian areas are already overcrowded.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAN I HOP IN MY CAR AND DRIVE TO JERUSALEM?</th>
<th>YES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You can do so on roads designed to bypass Palestinian communities and facilitate your commute</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>You need a rarely issued Israeli permit that’s generally time limited. Even with a permit, you’ll face checkpoints where you’re likely to experience delays and humiliation</td>
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<th>IF I’M ARRESTED, WILL I GET A FAIR TRIAL?</th>
<th>YES</th>
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<td>You’ll be tried in Israeli civil courts with full due process rights</td>
<td>NO</td>
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<tr>
<td>You’ll be tried in an Israeli military court with a near 100% conviction rate, or possibly even held in administrative detention without trial or charge, based on secret evidence</td>
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<th>DO I HAVE THE RIGHT TO FREE SPEECH AND RIGHT TO PROTEST?</th>
<th>YES</th>
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<td>Only speech with “near certainty” to “seriously jeopardize” vital security can be restricted. You can protest without fear of state repression</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Military orders restrict your right to free speech and right to protest. If you violate these vaguely worded orders, you could face up to 10 years in prison</td>
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<th>CAN I BUILD A HOME?</th>
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<td>Israel has allocated large swaths of the West Bank to settlements, where plans have been approved to build thousands of homes</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because you live in the 60% of the West Bank that is under exclusive Israeli control (Area C), it’s virtually impossible. You may be more likely to have your home demolished than get a permit to build</td>
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Israel does not recognize 35 Palestinian Bedouin communities, making it impossible for 90,000 or so residents to live lawfully in their homes. Israel refuses to connect your unrecognized village to national electricity or water grids or provide basic services like paved roads, sewage systems and schools.

Israel seeks to concentrate Bedouins in government-planned townships. As a resident of an unrecognized village, you live under constant threat of home demolition.

As part of a policy to “Judaize the Negev”, Israel actively nurtures the development of Jewish communities in the Negev. Likely without any obstacles, thanks to billions of shekels Israel has invested in major infrastructure projects to attract Jewish residents to the area.

Israel continues to make more and more land available to Jewish communities to encourage you to stay and raise your family here. Among other challenges, hundreds of small Jewish towns have admissions committees that have power by law to exclude Palestinian citizens from living there.