

## Episode 44: Creating Safer and Braver Spaces to Talk about Israel/Palestine in Schools I

**Guests:** Jouanna Hassoun & Shai Hofmann Trialoge/Gesellschaft im Wandel gGmbH

**Hosts:** Philip & Bünyamin

**Bio:** Jouanna Hassoun is the founder of *Transaidency*, a German-Palestinian organization promoting intercultural dialogue, empowerment, and human rights education. She regularly facilitates dialogue formats in schools. Shai Hoffmann is a Social entrepreneur, educational activist, and podcast host (*Über Israel und Palästina sprechen*). Known for innovative political dialogue initiatives such as the *Bus der Begegnungen* and *Tiny Space Über Israel und Palästina sprechen*, he brings together people who rarely engage with one another.

Together, Jouanna and Shai run the project **Trialog**, visiting schools since October 7 to discuss the massacre, the ongoing war, and its impact on Muslim and Jewish life in Germany. Their aim is to create spaces where students can ask difficult questions, explore multiple perspectives, and see that both Jewish and Palestinian experiences matter. Their work and experiences are documented in a common book. They have both received numerous awards for the commitment for human rights and peace education.

**In this episode:** We speak with Jouanna Hassoun and Shai Hoffmann about their personal and family connections to Israel and Palestine, how these shaped their identities in Germany, and their first encounters with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They share their experiences conducting dialogue and human rights education in schools: what works, typical challenges, and surprising student reactions. They discuss how the current attacks on international law affect democracy education and the challenges teachers face when engaging with controversial issues in classrooms and why they should not avoid speaking about the Middle East conflict. Finally, Jouanna and Shai share their short- and long-term visions for Israel and Palestine, highlighting the importance of dialogue, humanity, and principled engagement in times of crisis.

### Links:

Hassoun, Jouanna, and Shai Hoffmann. *Trialog: Wie wir über Israel und Palästina sprechen*. Quadriga, 2024. <https://bastei-luebbe.de/Buecher/Sachbuecher/Trialog/9783869951515?srsId=AfmBOoq053pv28v919fEsgbn0myBRTDd5qowMDEWXR1CGXtRISuxjCNv> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025).

Trialoge / Gesellschaft im Wandel gGmbH: <https://israelpalaestinavideos.org/trialoge> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025).

Jouanna Hassoun: <https://www.instagram.com/jouannahassoun/?hl=de> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025).

Shai Hoffmann: <https://shaihoffmann.de/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025).

Transaidency e.V.: <https://transaidency.org/trialoge-israel-palaestina/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025).

Gaza Soforthilfe: <https://transaidency.org/gaza-soforthilfe/> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025).

Podcast: Über Israel und Palästina sprechen: <https://open.spotify.com/show/6ELf1xivmWUwMvTSoZUhCv> (Last accessed on October 21, 2025).

### **Dedication:**

*We dedicate this Podcast to all victims and survivors of October 7, the hostages and their families, to all innocent civilians killed and injured in Gaza and their grieving families and friends. To our dear guests Udi Goren, Khalil Sayegh, Sima and Mai who shared their losses so powerfully with us. To their families: Tal's wife Ella Haimi, their children Nir, Einav, Udi and Lotan, who never got the chance to meet his father. To Khalil Sayegh's mother and siblings, to Mai's and Sima's family, to her mother Bushra.*

*To the blessed memory of: Tal Haimi, Lara Sayegh, Jeris Sayegh, Mahmoud, Danny Darlington and Haim Perry.*

### **Disclaimer:**

In each episode of this podcast, the invited guests speak on their own behalf. They share their experiences, assessments, and expert perspectives. These contributions are central to the multiperspectivity of the project but do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial team or producers.

### **Legal & Historical Anchor Episodes:**

This podcast may include controversial legal terms of specific technical significance. Their legal applicability requires a thorough expert contextualization; for this, we refer to our legal chapter. All relevant terms of international law, its institutions, current controversies, and the state of jurisprudence are explained in the anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Claus Kreß LL.M. (Cambridge) (Episode 36). He is co-author of the Rome Statute, Special Advisor to the International Criminal Court, and Judge at the International Court of Justice in the parallel Gambia vs. Myanmar genocide case.

Historical matters are discussed from multiple perspectives in this podcast. Please check the cross-references in the shownotes of the respective episodes for details. All historically contested issues are addressed in the history anchor episode with Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gudrun Krämer (Episode 21), author of the comprehensive work *A History of Palestine: From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel* (Princeton 2008), a standard reference in the field. For her scholarly achievements as a historian, she was awarded the *Preis des Historischen Kollegs* in 2025, the highest distinction in her discipline in Germany.