



Something to Cheer About?

Learning outcomes

- ◇ Through press conference, dramatise a situation where a group of people are treated unfairly because of where they come from
- ◇ Present argument from a particular point of view in accordance with role

Lesson in brief

The class will prepare and conduct a press conference around the British government's refusal of visas to the Palestine under 22 team.

National curriculum

1.1b, 1.1c, 2.1d, 2.2c.

Materials: Student handout—press conference, newspaper cards, student handout—immigration (optional)

Lesson Plan

Starter and preparation

- ◇ Explain to students that they will do a press conference about the British government's refusal to grant visas to the Palestine under 22 team.
- ◇ Allocate key roles to most able and articulate students. Those who need support can be paired with others. Students should be given a copy of the press statement along with a newspaper card. They should then be given time to prepare for the press conference.

ROLES

- Rod Cox, organiser of the visit
- Nancy Dell'Olio, chair of TRUCE International (organisation set up to 'Seek peace through passion for football')
- Journalists from newspapers. You can select from the cards provided or add others including local papers

Cards are provided for the following newspapers:

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| • The Sun | • Ha'aretz (Israeli daily paper) |
| • The Daily Mirror | • Jerusalem Post (Israeli English language paper) |
| • The Guardian | • Al-Hayat (Arab daily newspaper) |
| • The Daily Mail | • Al-Ahram Weekly (English language weekly Egyptian newspaper) |
| • The Times | |
| • The Daily Telegraph | |

N.B. There are various British newspapers that are staunchly pro-Israeli—a couple of which are included here. Newspapers, such as the Guardian and the Independent have a far lower circulation. Even these papers are not strictly pro-Palestinian however. The way that stories are reported takes more from an Israeli perspective than Palestinian. They are more critical of Israel and include pro-Palestinian pieces in their comment pages.

- ◆ Ask the students to read the press release and do the comprehension exercise with it. This is a quick exercise since the statement is straightforward. This press statement has been issued by CAPE (Chester And Palestine Exchange), an organisation that seeks to support Palestinians through exchange programmes.
- ◆ There is a list of links following the press release. You can use these in different ways, as sources of information, models, or as support for some students in establishing the viewpoint of their newspaper and help them draw up questions. Take care to warn students to be critical of sources since this is a contentious issue and clearly sources will be biased. These links are on a separate page, so that if you want your students to do independent research, students will not be given this list. Ensure students read one or two articles on the conflict from the newspaper they are representing

The background sheet on immigration can be used to broaden the scope of the lesson

Activity

- ◆ PRESS CONFERENCE—Set up your room appropriately. Ensure that all newspaper representatives have a list of questions and that overall there is a good spread of questions covering all of the key issues. Remind students to take notes (especially take down important quotes) and if possible, video the conference so that they can review it.

Homework

- ◆ All students including those who took on the roles of those giving the conference can write a newspaper article following the press conference.