

Participants,

Since 1946, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has persisted to be on our common political agenda. The complexity of the situation has grown to be incomprehensible. Yet it continues to break into our hearts and minds.

We keep asking ourselves: How would you act if you are of the opinion that this conflict is beyond possibility to take on?

Gideon Levy and Mitri Raheb have observed, each from their own perspective, what they could do. They both carry the legacy of grief. They use their knowledge and belief. They are in the midst of the work to give hope.

Today we celebrate Gideon Levy and Mitri Raheb with the Olof Palme Prize for their determination to work for peaceful cooperation between people. They appear to have a common dream, also shared by Olof. He used to articulate it as follows:

“During the course of life, we all meet the same challenges; to grow up and be educated, to find playmates and friends, to prepare ourselves for our different roles in adult life and make our own living, to find somewhere to live and make it into a home, to form a family and bring up children, to keep healthy throughout life and cope with illness and other misfortunes that may beset us, to secure a decent living and preserve our dignity for the inevitable frailty of old age, to live as free citizens, equal with other members of society, and to take share in being responsible for the common good.”

Please come and receive your prize