

ISRAEL AND APARTHEID – LET’S REALLY COMPARE THEM

* In South Africa, only whites had voting rights. ***All Israeli citizens have political rights, and can stand for election and form or join whatever political parties they wish***

* Residential segregation based on race was mandatory in South Africa, with whites being allocated the majority of living space despite being a small minority. ***In Israel, outside areas owned by the Jewish National Fund, people of all races can live in whatever town or suburb they wish and it is illegal to prevent them from doing so on racial or any other grounds.***

* Public amenities such as parks, buses, hospitals, libraries and beaches were strictly segregated in South Africa, with whites enjoying the best facilities.

Nothing of this exists in Israel, and indeed such discrimination would be illegal.

* Apartheid prohibited racially mixed marriages and even sexual relations across the color line.

Such laws do not exist in Israel, nor would the courts ever allow them.

* Education was segregated, with race determining what school or university a person attended under apartheid.

In Israel, people can attend whatever school or university they wish (a right that is enforced wherever necessary by the Israeli courts)

* In South Africa, 87% of the land was reserved exclusively for white ownership.

In Israel, apart from the 13% of the land owned by the JNF, the land is available for lease or purchase to all Israel citizens and it is illegal to discriminate in this regard

* In South Africa, “color bar” legislation restricted non-whites from most professions, and wage legislation fixed their wages at lower levels than whites.

In Israel, access to all levels of the economic and professional sectors is open to all

* Freedom of movement was severely circumscribed for black under apartheid, with pass laws and other influx control methods treating them like foreigners in their own land and subjected them to constant harassment and arrests.

Pass laws and influx control based on race or other grounds does not exist within Israel.