



JEWISH DEMOCRATIC INITIATIVE · SOUTH AFRICA

Festival of Dangerous Ideas 2026

Sat 18 & Sun 19 July 2026 **Cape Town** · Hellenic Community Centre, Mouille Point
Johannesburg · Killarney Country Club, Houghton

The JDI's second Festival of Dangerous Ideas brings together sought-after international and local voices over two extraordinary days. The underlying theme: how do Jews and Palestinians break free of the spiral of violence and find peace?

We have chosen a symbolic date — Nelson Mandela's birthday — to emphasise that even under the grimmest circumstances, peace is still possible when there is a determination to find it. Most sessions are screened live between the two venues; some are local. A lunch, a supper, and teas & coffee are included, with plenty of secure parking at both venues.

● JHB live · Zoom to CT ● CT live · Zoom to JHB ● Zoom to both venues ● At both venues

Saturday 18 July Johannesburg & Cape Town

14:00
14:15

JHB LIVE · ZOOM TO CT

Introduction

JDI chairperson Irwin Manoim welcomes delegates and briefly explains the proceedings.

14:15
15:15

JHB LIVE · ZOOM TO CT

Avrum Burg speaks on Mandela's birthday

Once one of Israel's most powerful politicians, now the eloquent, outspoken conscience of his people. In this session he speaks from Johannesburg.

15:30
16:30

JHB LIVE · ZOOM TO CT

Arab Barghouti talks to Azhar Cachalia

The voice of the Free Marwan Barghouti campaign in dialogue for the first time with one of the founding members of the Free Mandela Campaign.

16:30
16:45

Tea Break

16:45
18:00

AT BOTH VENUES

Film and group discussion: Scenes from the Divide

A short film about Jewish divisions over New York mayor Zohran Mamdani, followed by a discussion of how its themes match our personal experiences here.

18:00
19:00

CT LIVE · ZOOM TO JHB

The Bad Jews Podcast visits JDI

Anthony Fish Hodgson and Caitlin Le Roith record live at our Cape Town venue. They don't agree with Liberal Zionism — and we've invited them to tell us why. Our audience are welcome to argue back, or agree.

19:00
20:00

Dinner

20:00
20:45

ZOOM TO BOTH VENUES

Mo Hussein, filmmaker and activist

Palestinian film-maker whose viral movies have made him one of the most distinctive and original voices in Israeli-Palestinian discourse. He will also show some film clips.

Sunday 19 July Johannesburg & Cape Town

08:30
09:00

 **Registration**

09:00
10:00

CT LIVE · ZOOM TO JHB

Jonathan Shapiro (Zapiro)

The silencing of images. South Africa's most famous cartoonist on how Israel-Palestine has become a "no-go" area for many international cartoonists as newspaper editors come under pressure from Israel's lobbyists.

10:00
11:00

ZOOM TO BOTH VENUES

Sally Abed of Standing Together

The Palestinian joint director of Israel's largest grassroots movement, which recently took the bold step of launching a political party for both Jews and Palestinians, calling for partnership rather than division.

11:00
11:30

 **Tea Break**

11:30
12:30

ZOOM TO BOTH VENUES

Rabbi Arik Ascherman, peace activist

The former head of Rabbis for Human Rights has been beaten, stabbed and arrested for his work in shielding Palestinian farmers from settler vigilantes.

12:30
13:30

 **Lunch**

13:30
14:30

CT LIVE · ZOOM TO JHB

The youth talk back to us

What are the concerns and aspirations of Jewish youth at this divided and troubled time for our community? A panel of youngsters talk to each other and also to the bobbas and zeiders.

14:30
15:30

AT BOTH VENUES

Listen From the Heart

Personal narratives from bereaved Israelis and Palestinians who have lost family in the conflicts, exploring pathways toward greater understanding and connection. Presented by Cape Town educator Jocelyn Horwitz.

15:30
16:00

 **Tea Break**

16:00
17:00

ZOOM TO BOTH VENUES

Samer Sinijlawi on a shared society

A fiercely independent voice within Palestinian politics, challenging both the Palestinian authorities and Hamas, urging democratic reforms. A regular and eloquent speaker at JDI events.

17:00
18:00

ZOOM TO BOTH VENUES

Molly Crabapple on the Jewish Bund

The author of the New York Times best-seller about the Yiddishist mass movement with roots in Lithuania, which campaigned for a Jewish life within the diaspora rather than nationalism and statehood.

18:00
19:00

CT LIVE · ZOOM TO JHB

Closing address from Avrum Burg

Speaking from Cape Town this time, Avrum Burg addresses the themes raised across the conference.

19:00
19:15

CT LIVE · ZOOM TO JHB

Thank You and Good Night

Closing remarks from JDI veteran and former chair Basil Dubb.

BOOK YOUR SEAT ON QUICKET

Johannesburg · Cape Town

Search "Festival of Dangerous Ideas" on quicket.co.za

jdisa.org

An independent Jewish voice in South Africa

Programme is provisional and subject to change · All timings shown as start / end