

# SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES

## 1 ELIAS



### IDENTITY

Palestinian  
Christian  
Psychology student, 20  
Home: Bethlehem, occupied  
Palestinian territory  
Loves: reading, football, classical music  
Future career: psychology teacher  
Family: Two sisters, mum and dad

### PERSPECTIVE

Elias feels trapped and stressed by the Israeli occupation of his land.

He has to pass through checkpoints to get to university every day.

Israel's separation barrier sums up all he feels about the loss of his human rights and freedom. A foreign power controls so many aspects of his life.

He would leave if he could to find a better future: "If I were allowed to emigrate, then I would, so I could live like everyone else, in freedom..."

Yet at the same time he loves his home near Bethlehem, birthplace of Jesus: "I consider it my special city as my roots are here." Elias is torn.



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## ② AMAL



### IDENTITY

Palestinian  
Muslim  
Sixth former, 17  
Home: a village near Bethlehem, occupied Palestinian territory  
Loves: poetry, walking, vintage Arab music  
Future career: midwife or nurse  
Family: a sister, two brothers, mum and dad

### PERSPECTIVE

Amal is passionate about her birthplace and wants to play her part in creating a better future for Palestinians.

She feels the injustice of the Israeli separation barrier, which runs beside her village, but this strengthens her loyalty to her country and history.

**"It motivates me to stay in my country and hold onto it."**

For her, emigrating is not the answer. She grew up with the conflict and knows she belongs here.

**"When you live in another country, you don't feel at home the way you do here...Why don't we seek to change our reality for the better?"**



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## 3 HIBA



### IDENTITY

Palestinian citizen of Israel  
Muslim  
English student, 20  
Home: Jaffa, Israel  
Loves: music, movies, escape room  
Future career: English teacher  
Family: two sisters, mum and dad

### PERSPECTIVE

Hiba speaks fluent Arabic and Hebrew and has both Jewish and Muslim friends. In Israel this is unusual, but Hiba has moved between two worlds since she was a child. Her home town Jaffa is mixed; one third of the population is Palestinian.

When it comes to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, she strongly believes each side must try to understand the hopes and fears of the other.

“We really need to see the narrative from both sides. I grew up both with Jews and Palestinians so I really want others to see what I see. There is a lot of misinformation and stereotyping that misleads people.”

“We can’t live like this.”

- Hiba



# SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES

## 4 MAAYAN



ISRAELI

INEQUALITY

SOLIDARITY

JEWISH

CONFLICT

QUESTIONING

### IDENTITY

Israeli  
Jewish  
Community volunteer, 19  
Home: Haifa, Israel  
Loves: reading  
Family: a sister and a brother,  
mum and dad

### PERSPECTIVE

Maayan is unconventional. She didn't do Israeli military service like most of her friends, and serves as a community volunteer instead. Yet she says that the ways we are like each other are much more important than our differences.

"Everyone wants the same things – we want love and to feel appreciated and meaningful. We shouldn't focus on what sets us apart."

Maayan recently made Palestinian friends for the first time. She was shocked by how they are treated in Israel. This experience changed her.

She believes a society based on discrimination hurts everyone, even the privileged. "We are in constant war. We are always afraid. The conflict is everyone's problem."

"A country based on racism hurts everyone."

- Maayan

