

**Press  
Release  
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South African Institute of Race Relations  
*The power of ideas*

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## **South Africa should adopt a better foreign policy on Israel**

In an article written for Politicsweb the IRR has argued that South Africa should revise its foreign policy on Israel towards one of constructive engagement. In that article the IRR warns that the nature of the current debate on Israel in South Africa is often misleading and too often tinged with shades of anti-Semitism. The IRR argues that closer ties between Israel and South Africa would be to the benefit of both countries and could contribute to brokering settlements to flashpoints such as that in Gaza this week.

An extract from that article reads:

*A far better approach would be to revise South Africa's foreign policy on Israel towards one of constructive engagement that looks for areas of common interest and understanding that could help bring the warring parties together. Israel might then find the South African government, given its close historical ties with the Palestinian movement, a particularly useful peace-broker. For our own part there is an extraordinary amount that South African policy makers could learn from Israel in areas ranging from water-policy and agriculture to the creation and incubation of a high-tech industrial sector.*

You can read the whole article at <http://www.politicsweb.co.za>

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