

# Med Israel for fred

Til Likestillings- og diskrimineringsombudet, Diskrimineringsnemnda og politiet i Oslo

Oslo, 22. mars 2018

Med Israel for fred (MIFF) er en veldedig opplysningsorganisasjon som arbeider aktivt mot diskriminering, bl.a. mot jøder, israelere og Israel.

Likestillings- og diskrimineringsloven sier at diskriminering på grunn av etnisitet er forbudt. Det heter i §6 at «Med etnisitet menes blant annet nasjonal opprinnelse, avstamning, hudfarge og språk.»

Vi vil med dette varsle om en pågående festival i Oslo – Feminine Tripper - hvor deltakere er avvist med nasjonal opprinnelse som begrunnelse. I et brev sendt til minst fem israelske søkere 7. mars 2018, skrev arrangørene Kristiane Nerdrum Bøgwald og Margrete Slettebø: «Etter nøye vurdering beklager vi at vi må informere dere om vår beslutning om ikke å invitere israelske deltakere til vår festival.» I vedlegg 1 viser brevet til Eden Wiseman - Roni Rotem, Nitzan Lederman, Maayan Cohen Marciano og Adi Shildan fikk likelydende brev.

I brev datert 18. mars 2018 opplyser Bøgwald og Slettebø at 10 av 117 søknader til festivalen kom fra israelske kunstnere bosatt i Israel (vedlegg 2). Bøgwald og Slettebø ser ut til å bekrefte i dette brevet at alle disse søknadene ble avvist på grunn av søkerens nasjonale opprinnelse. På grunn av «stor arbeidsmengde» tok de seg frihet til å bryte diskrimineringsloven.

Bøgwald og Slettebø hevder i siste brev at de ikke har til hensikt å utestenge israelere som deler deres egen politiske ideologi, men deres kollektive utestengelse på grunn av nasjonal opprinnelse har tilsynelatende fortsatt også etter 18. mars. Ifølge den israelske kunstneren Eden Wiseman var Feminine Trippers Facebook-side åpen for israelere frem til

tirsdag 20. mars. Onsdag 21. mars har Med Israel for fred (MIFF) fått vitneutsagn fra en rekke israelere om at Facebook-siden nå er stengt for brukere med israelsk IP-adresse. Slik fortsetter Feminine Tripper sin diskriminering i strid med norsk lov.

Det er på det rene at israelske søkere til Feminine Tripper er blitt direkte forskjellsbehandlet på grunn av nasjonal opprinnelse. Forskjellsbehandlingen har ikke hatt et saklig formål.

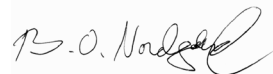
Feminine Trippers avvisning av israelerne er også et brudd på lovens forbud mot å trakassere. Det oppleves svært nedverdiggende og ydmykende for kunstnere ikke å få sitt kunstnerisk forslag vurdert etter faglige/ estetiske vurderinger, men avvist på grunn av nasjonal opprinnelse.

MIFF ber Oslo Politikammer straks starte etterforskning av festivalen Feminine Tripper for deres brudd på norsk lov.

MIFF ber Likestillings- og diskrimineringsombudet og/ eller Diskrimineringsnemnda gripe inn umiddelbart med pålegg om å stanse de ulovlige forholdene og ilegge erstatning og tvangsmulkt.

Da festivalen arrangeres 19.-25. mars er det viktig med snarest mulig handling.

Med vennlig hilsen,



Bengt-Ove Nordgård, styreleder MIFF



Conrad Myrland, daglig leder MIFF

## VEDLEGG 1

Dear Eden,

Thank you for interest in the «Feminine tripper» festival. We regret to have to inform you that after careful consideration we have decided that we cannot at this moment invite Israeli participants to our festival. The reason that we have made this decision is that we cannot with a clear conscience invite Israeli participants when we know that artists from the occupied Palestinian territories struggle with very restricted access to travel to international art venues and that they have little opportunity to communicate their art outside of the occupied territories.

We also have reason to believe that the Israeli government at the moment uses culture as a form of propaganda to whitewash or justify its regime of occupation and oppression of the Palestinian people. We refer for instance to this article the Haaretz: <https://www.haaretz.com/1.4875039>.

We appreciate your artistic project proposal and hope to have the opportunity to invite you to Norway again once the political circumstances have changed. We hope that you as an artist will help raise awareness in your society about the concern that many of us artists and cultural workers around the world have about the brutal effects of the occupation on Palestinians artists and the rest of the population.

Your sincerely,

Kristiane Nerdrum Bøgwald and Margrete Slettebø

Organizers of the “Feminine tripper” festival



## VEDLEGG 2

### Open letter

from the Feminine tripper festival 18.03.2018

Feminine Tripper is an art festival on femininity and gender identity taking place in Oslo from the 19.-25th of March. This letter is an open letter to respond to the e-mail from the Israeli artists Adi Shildan, Eden Wiseman, Roni Rotem, Maayan Cohen Marziano and Nitzan Lederma that was made public this weekend. They are five, out of ten Israeli artists that applied to take part in our festival.

We, as artists and as organizers of this festival are in support of the Palestinian call to boycott, sanctions and divestment (BDS) of and from Israeli institutions, this includes also cultural institutions involved in the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories. This was why we were faced with a very tough decision when selecting artists to the festival. Ten out of 117 applications came from Israeli artists, based in Israel. We were under a heavy workload having to go through this large number of applications and we did not have the capacity to ask for more information or to do a thorough background check on each of the Israeli artists as to whether they receive funding from the Israeli government, were affiliated with an Israeli institution or if they were in fact opposing the occupation. We are sorry if our decision afflicted Israeli artists that are opposing Israel's occupation policy. We realize that we in the future should make time to gather this information. We are in favour of a smart boycott that targets state institutions or individuals who are involved in the occupation. We would be very happy to establish an artistic collaboration with artists that take a stand against the occupation.

Please note that we also received two applications from Israelis living outside of Israel.

These two artists were not subjected to our BDS-policy.

Let us remind you that there is not necessarily a contradiction between boycott and dialogue. However, for a fruitful dialogue it is important that any exchange must have as a base that the Israeli oppression of the Palestinians is unacceptable and must come to an end. Our intention was to remind Israeli artists that the Palestinian occupation concerns artists globally and to urge them to take action against the policies of their government. We put trust in the power of the people in Israel to elect their politicians according to the conscience.

Ten years back Margrete, one of the organizers, lived for some months, in the occupied territories. She then witnessed the desperate situation for the Palestinians imprisoned by endless checkpoints throughout the West bank, the inability to obtain visas to travel abroad, the high level of unemployment, the violence from Israeli soldiers and constant land grab from illegal settlers that threaten Palestinian livelihoods. She visited families that have a son or a father in prison who only was guilty of political activism or speaking up against human rights violations. She also visited Israeli peace organisations that are in favour of a smart boycott to strengthen the voices of the peace movement inside Israel.

Palestinian artists under occupation are not permitted the same freedom to travel to festivals and to share their art and their truth. All over the world, cultural organisations and individual artists are making the same choice to not invite Israeli artists or to cancel performances in Israel as they do not want to be accomplices or to normalize the Israeli occupation. There are an increasing grass roots movement of artists internationally that are witnessing the inability of the international community to intervene in an illegal Israeli occupation of the Palestinian people that has been going on for more than 60 years. The largest trade union in Norway, LO, for instance voted in favour of the boycott, divestment and sanctions campaign last year, with a large majority.

We welcome this discussion, but the main focus for us now is to welcome people to the very first edition of the Feminine Tripper and to make sure the festival on femininity and gender identity is as good as possible.

Your sincerely,

Kristiane Nerdrum Bøgwald and Margrete Slettebø,  
organizers.