

UPDATE FROM ARNOLFINI: 21 NOVEMBER 2023

Following careful consideration, and several discussions with the organisers, Arnolfini took the difficult decision not to host the two interrelated Palestinian Film Festival events on 2nd of December.

We recognise that this has led to a variety of views. Our reasons for making this challenging decision were based on the following.

1. The difficulty for arts charities hosting events that might be construed as political activity (see below).
2. Hosting events which combine film, performance and discussion panels meant we could not be confident that the event would not stray into political activity.
3. The current tensions caused by the external international environment means:
 - i. it is more likely that events might be construed as political activity.
 - ii. it is beyond our available resources to adequately risk assess events such as the above at this current time.

We shared these reasons with the Bristol Palestinian Film Festival. We understand their disappointment. And we are pleased that the events are still scheduled to take place elsewhere in the city.

Arnolfini will continue to present a broad programme of contemporary arts in Bristol and work with many artists and partners involving a wide range of subjects, in line with its charitable purpose, and its history of over sixty years of cultural programming.

ARTS CHARITIES AND POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

The guidance covering what is deemed political activity for arts charities is complicated (see link below). It is also the case that what activities might fall under the remit of this guidance can change depending on wider events. For example, at times of general elections or like now, when global circumstances create an additional level of sensitivity about what might be construed as political activity. Arnolfini is legally obligated to follow this guidance.

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities-cc9/speaking-out-guidance-on-campaigning-and-political-activity-by-charities>