

Creative nonviolence: graffiti

The word graffiti comes from the Italian for “scratched”. People have been scratching and painting images on walls since before writing was invented. There is graffiti from the Vikings who reached Constantinople, from the people of Pompeii before the Roman town was destroyed by a volcano, and hand prints on cave walls from 40,000 years ago.

Graffiti has often been used in history to voice opposition to those in power.

Israeli law described Palestinian graffiti in Gaza and the West Bank as terrorism during the First Intifada. Today, on the houses of refugee camps, on the barrier around the West Bank, on many exposed walls, graffiti expresses what people are thinking.

Like the Berlin Wall and the peace lines of Northern Ireland, the wall around the West Bank is painted on by thousands of people – Palestinians, Israelis and international activists. The British artist “Banksy” has made his mark in several places.



Sample graffiti: EAPPI logo

