ever harder for them to do so. Israel’s ethnocentric approach may be a valid expression of its national sovereignty. But it is hardly wise or helpful in the current fraught situation and leads inevitably to manifest injustices placed on many of its citizens.

But whilst I may criticize the choices Israelis make, I criticize them as a foreigner, albeit one who has cultural and religious links to the country and a natural affection for it. I certainly should not behave like those Irish Americans who continued to fund the Provisional IRA when its terror campaign was causing carnage on both sides of the Irish Sea. But, nor, as a cosmopolitan Jew with citizenship (in my case) in two other countries, should I any more refrain from criticism of Israel than criticism of any other country on earth. Israelis are well advised to take such criticism on board.

—Victor, Auckland, New Zealand

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As a forty-six-year-old Brit living in Dallas, with what could best be described as Humanist views, I caught the latter part of Rabbi Lerner’s NPR interview about his book *Embracing Israel/Palestine* in the car today and listened with tremendous interest.

Political discourse in the United States is now so completely broken at every level that to hear a balanced, educated voice of reason is a rare treat. In the current environment it seems that your views and proposed solutions to the Middle East conflict will be shot down, trampled upon, and demazoned as “liberal wooly-headed naivety” by many. I would remind such naysayers that peace in Northern Ireland was brought about after nearly 500 years by much the same approach. While no direct comparison between the regions can be drawn, the problems seemed similarly intractable and are perhaps a close enough parallel to merit mention.

Your work and embracing of other faiths and beliefs through the Network of Spiritual Progressives is so important. As you know, no sensible discussion will be had on such divisive issues unless the foundation of trust, understanding, and genuine respect for others’ views is established, and I applaud you for your initiative. While I don’t share your religious beliefs, your calling out the baying hypocrites for using the “word of God” to vilify their opponents had me cheering behind the wheel! At last, someone on the inside gets it!

—Steve Austin, Dallas, TX