

IRA GRUPPER has been active in the progressive movement for 57 years, as an organizer, activist and teacher. In the 1960's, he was a civil rights worker in Georgia, Mississippi and Kentucky. From 1980-1986, he was Commissioner and Vice-Chair, Louisville and Jefferson County Human Relations Commission. From 1989-1993, he was National Co-Chair of New Jewish Agenda. In the 1990s, he was Delegate to the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council for eight years, and was also Co-Chair, Louisville Committee for Israeli-Palestinian States.

In the 1990s, Ira Grupper was the Chair, Committee to Defend Ibrahim Imam and Ahmed Desoky, two Arab-American professors at the University of Louisville who were denied promotion and tenure because of their Arab and Muslim heritage. (This Committee which also included Dr. Riffat Hassan, was successful in securing tenure for the two professors).

Ira Grupper was appointed by Mayor Greg Fischer and served two terms as a Commissioner of the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission. He is currently on the board of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and Metro Disability Coalition.

He recently retired as Adjunct Professor at Bellarmine University. He is a member of Jewish Voice for Peace, and Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East. He writes a bi-monthly newspaper column called "Labor Paeans."