



Women in Black
London

70 YEARS OF DISPOSSESSION, 50 YEARS OF OCCUPATION

Seventy years ago, in the process of creating the State of Israel, 700,000 Palestinians were driven from their land and homes. Today they recall this as their 'Nakba', or 'catastrophe'. Twenty years later, in 1967, Israel defeated an alliance of Arab countries in a 'Six-Day War', seizing the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank of the Jordan, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, displacing a further 400,000 Palestinians and imposing a brutal Occupation.

Many attempts at peace have failed, largely due to the reluctance of Israeli leaders. By building settlements to house nearly a million Jews in the West Bank, they have rendered impossible the creation of a separate Palestinian state on the occupied lands. Yet they remain adamantly opposed to inclusion of non-Jews as equal citizens in a future State of Israel. Recent support for President Netanyahu by new US President Donald Trump, including his provocative relocation of the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to the disputed city of Jerusalem and his threat to withdraw US aid from needy Palestinians, has been a further setback to justice.

MOBILIZING ANEW FOR LAND AND FREEDOM FOR PALESTINIANS!

Between March 30 - May 15 this year, commemorating the anniversary of the Nakba, Palestinians in Gaza organized a massive protest they termed their 'Great March of Return'. Gathering in their thousands along the Gaza border with Israel, they made their point by throwing stones, burning tyres and setting fire to Israeli flags. The Israeli Defences Forces fired into Gaza, shooting dead more than a hundred unarmed protestors and wounding 5000 more.

Our international network, Women in Black against War, was initiated 30 years ago by Israeli Jewish and Palestinian women in Jerusalem, taking a stand together for justice for Palestinians. Today here in London we stand in solidarity with the many Israeli Jewish citizens, members of human rights groups such as B'Tselem, who oppose their government's policies and call for an end to the Occupation, and for land, freedom and democracy for Palestinians.

The UK is not without influence in this situation. In bilateral trade amounting to around £4 billion a year, the UK buys Israel's advanced technology, including armed drones, and sells strategic goods to Israel including components for the F-16 fighter aircraft and Apache combat helicopters that Israel uses to attack Palestinians. We appeal to the British Government to end this military and moral support for the Israeli State and to stand up for Palestinian rights.

Gaza Health Authority's Al-Shifa and Al-Aqsa Hospitals and clinics are overwhelmed by the influx of wounded demonstrators, while routine health provision, including women's reproductive support, is seriously neglected. Please help by donating to:

Medical Aid for Palestinians <<https://www.map.org.uk/donate/>>

Please sign and send to: The Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA.

With Women in Black, I call on the UK Government to:

- Condemn the continuing Israeli Occupation of Palestinian lands, the construction of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, the blockade of the Gaza Strip and shooting of demonstrators.
- Support international status for Jerusalem as a city significant for Muslims, Jews and Christians.
- Urge a new peace initiative for the creation of a viable independent state of Palestine.
- Meanwhile join the international regime of boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS) against Israel.

Signature.....Name.....

Address.....

**Contact Women in Black at: <wibinfo@gn.apc.org> <www.london.womeninblack.org>
<[Twitter@WIB_London](https://twitter.com/WIB_London)> <www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london>**

Women in Black holds vigils every Wednesday between 6 and 7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London WC2. The vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. **Do join us!**