



Women in Black
London

**Only justice and democratic statehood for Palestinians
can bring peace to the region.**

In early 2018 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip began a sustained mass demonstration at the border fence for their 'right of return' to former homes in Israel under UN Resolution 194. In response Israeli forces have shot dead at least 210 demonstrators and injured 23,000 others. Israeli bombs have destroyed significant sites and health facilities. On the political front, Israel has enacted policies that impede, rather than foster, progress towards peace with Palestinians. Relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem in May, on the prompting of Donald Trump, was a combative gesture undermining the city's shared status. Continued settlement and wall-building in the Occupied West Bank are reducing the land available for a State of Palestine in any 'two-state solution'. Meanwhile an end to the Palestinians' suffering by creation of a single shared state spanning Israel and the Occupied Territories has become even less imaginable. In July a new 'nation-state law' defined Israel unequivocally as a 'state for the Jewish people' only, relegating all identities other than Jewish to non-citizenship, including the 20% of Israel's present population that are Israeli Arab (both Muslim and Christian Palestinians). Arabic was stripped of its status as a national language. Ever less thinkable, therefore, is a democratic state embracing as equal citizens millions more Palestinians from the Occupied Territories.

Women in Black in London stand in solidarity with Palestinian women in the Israeli Occupied Territories in their struggle for justice, peace, well-being and a secure, prosperous and nonviolent future for themselves and their children.

We stand with Israeli partners the Coalition of Women for Peace, with Machsom Watch and other organizations in which Jewish and Palestinian Israeli women work together for a peace agreement and sustain contact with Palestinian women in the West Bank and Gaza. We likewise call for return to a fully equal and inclusive citizenship in Israel for Jewish and non-Jewish people alike.

To the Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street, London SW1A 2AA

Dear Theresa May: with Women in Black I appeal to the British Government to use all means in its power to influence the Israeli Government to redirect its policies towards fostering peace and the renewal of negotiations with Palestinian leaders.

.....SignatureName (print)

Address

Women in Black London hold vigils every Wednesday between 6 – 7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite the door of the National Portrait Gallery, St.Martin's Place, London WC2H OHE. Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. We welcome all women who support our call for an end to violence, militarism and war. Contact us at: wibinfo@gn.apc.org;

