



Women in Black
London

Only justice, equality and statehood for Palestinians can bring peace to the region

No end to the Occupation is in sight. Israel's illegal Occupation of the Palestinian territories in the Jordanian West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Syrian Golan Heights has now continued for 52 years. Condemnation by the United Nations and many foreign governments, backed by a cogent popular movement inside and outside Israel, has failed to induce Israel to end it. In April, Israel's national election returned Benjamin Netanyahu to power for yet another term, backed by an alliance of extreme right-wing parties. Far from proposing an end to the Occupation, they campaigned for 'extended Israeli sovereignty' over the Occupied West Bank, support for the ever-growing (illegal) Jewish settlements there, and the uprooting of 125,000 Bedouin Arabs from their villages in the Negev.

The 20% Palestinian minority living in Israel lack equality. Netanyahu recently proclaimed yet again that Israel is 'not a state of all its citizens' but 'the nation state of the Jewish people – and it alone'.

Blockade and siege of Gaza continues. Meanwhile the stand-off between Israel and Gaza has intensified. More than 200 Palestinians have been killed and possibly 30,000 wounded by Israeli soldiers' live fire since the Palestinian 'right of return' demonstrators began their noisy challenge across the barbed-wire border early last year. Desperate for an end to the blockade and siege imposed on them by Israel, Gazans have recently fired rockets into Tel Aviv. In response Israel has bombed strategic sites in the Gaza Strip.

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 too, such as the Coalition of Women for Peace, 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. With them, we call for full equality in Israel for Jewish and non-Jewish citizens alike.

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

Dear Prime Minister: 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 ending the Occupation, renewing negotiation with Palestinian leaders for a just peace settlement, affording statehood for Palestinians and equality of citizenship for all peoples within the State of Israel.

.....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 0HE. 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;

