



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 enters its 53rd year. Benjamin Netanyahu, the longest-serving prime minister, will stand again in the March 2020 elections. The occupation and on-going conflict severely impact the lives of women and children. Effects include house demolitions, restrictions on movement, the denial of travel permits, the inability of health workers to provide maternal health care and immunisations programmes. In December 2019 the International Criminal Court (ICC) chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, addressing the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Authorities, announced that the ICC will investigate the situation in Palestine: *"In brief, I am satisfied that war crimes have been or are being committed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip"*.

The 20% Palestinian minority living in Israel lack equality. Netanyahu has declared Israel as "the nation state of one people only – the Jewish people – and of no other people".

Blockade and siege of Gaza continues. Experts say that unless there are significant changes, Gaza will become un-liveable in 2020. The sexual and reproductive health (SRH), situation in Gaza is one example, with a 122% rise in maternal deaths from 2017-2018 (from 8.6 to 19.1 per 100,000 live births), 63% of mortalities were during pregnancy, which highlights the importance of maternal health service at primary health care level.

In a year of protests, the 'Great March of Return' 200 Palestinians were killed, more than 11,000 injured. The escalation of hostilities last autumn resulted in the killing of 35 Palestinians, including eight children and three women, and the injury of another 106. At the same time, Palestinian factions fired hundreds of rockets and mortars at Israel, resulting in 78 Israelis being treated for light injuries or shock.

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 Women in Black Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, 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 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;

