



Women in Black London

**Only justice for
Palestinians can bring
peace for Israel**

Fighting continues in Rafah, which came under intense Israeli airstrikes over the weekend while negotiations for a ceasefire are ongoing. According to the UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, all 36 of its shelters in the Rafah area are empty after residents were forced to flee. On 26 May, an Israeli air strike resulted in the deaths of at least 45 civilians in Rafah, many of them women, children and the elderly who were sheltering at a camp for displaced people. 90% of the population in Gaza has been displaced since 7 October, when Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis and took 250 hostages (130 still unaccounted for).

Israeli bombardment has destroyed over 70% of homes, 300,000 out of 439,000, which will take decades to rebuild. 48% of Gaza's tree cover has been lost or damaged. Orchards, fields and greenhouses have been destroyed. During heavy bombardment of populated areas, munitions and collapsed buildings release hazardous materials such as asbestos, industrial chemicals and fuel into the surrounding air, soil and groundwater.

Women in Black London call for a permanent ceasefire, for strengthened international efforts to encourage dialogue, diplomacy and nonviolent means of securing peace for the people of Palestine and Israel. This is the only way out of the tragic cycle of violence experienced by the Palestinian people and those still held hostage by Hamas.

Women in Black in London stand in solidarity with Palestinian women in the 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, Haifa 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.

Please share this leaflet with others and write to your own MP or elected representative (<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>) asking that they work to:

- Support an unconditional, permanent ceasefire in Gaza
- Reinstatement of the funding of UNRWA to help facilitate delivery of essential humanitarian aid to Gaza.
- End the illegal arms trade between the UK and Israel.



Women in Black 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 WC2. Our vigils are silent, women-only and if possible we wear black. We welcome all women who support our call for an end to militarism and war.

Contact us:

Twitter @WIB_London

FB @womeninblack.london

Donations for leaflets most welcome

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