



## Women in Black London

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

**Scale of the war:** Nine months into the war between Israel and Hamas, the reported death toll is over 38,500, while a study by The Lancet reports that *“it is not implausible to estimate that up to 186,000 or even more deaths could be attributable”* to the war. Since October, 500 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by the Israeli Defence Forces in violence linked to the war in Gaza. In October, Hamas killed 1,200 Israelis and took 250 hostages. 116 have been released while some are still held and others have been killed. There is now the danger of the war spreading into Lebanon. For months the Israeli Defence Force have made incursions into the south of Lebanon and Hezbollah has retaliated with drones and air attacks. Military actions from both sides have triggered fires in forests and a farm, forcing both Lebanese and Israeli's to flee. Of the escalation, UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, says it would be a *“catastrophe that goes [...] beyond imagination”*.

**Impact of the war:** The UNWRA Director for Planning in Gaza, reports that they struggle every day to get humanitarian aid, water and food to those in need. Israel continues to issue evacuation orders, most recently to the residents of Khan Younis, yet there are no safe places. The number of internally displaced people is 1.9 million, crammed into one-quarter of the space of the whole strip. 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. Settler expansion in the West Bank continues, creating more displacement.

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 and prevent the conflict from spreading. This is the only way to break the cycle of violence.

**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.**

*With a new government and many new Members of Parliament there are new opportunities for dialogue and advocacy. Please share this leaflet with others and write to your own MP (<https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP>) asking that they work to:*

- Reinstatement of the funding of UNWRA to help facilitate delivery of essential humanitarian aid to Gaza.
- End the arms trade between the UK and Israel.
- Support the negotiations that are underway for an unconditional, permanent ceasefire in Gaza
- Work to ensure the immediate unconditional release of Israeli hostages and Palestinians in arbitrary administrative detention



**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**

*July 2024*