



**Women in Black  
London**

**Ceasefire Now  
Gaza, Israel, Palestine  
End the Genocide**

**Gaza:** On 7 October 2023, in response to years of persecution, blockades and imprisonment within the closed confines of Gaza, Hamas attacked Israel. 1,200 Israelis were killed on that day and 251 were taken hostage. In November 2024, 105 hostages were freed in exchange for 240 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. A further 34 are currently on a list of those Hamas is willing to release in the first stage of a potential ceasefire agreement with Israel. Around 100 are still missing.

Israel's reaction to the incident was to attack Gaza brutally and relentlessly with an unprecedented level of casualties and destruction. **Amnesty International** reported in December that Israel's response amounts to genocide, as defined by the Geneva Convention, through: *the wide scale damage and destruction of critical infrastructure and other objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, repeated waves of mass forced displacement in unsafe and inhumane conditions, and obstruction of or restrictions on the entry and delivery of life-saving supplies, including humanitarian aid, and essential services in Gaza.* Israel's bombardment of Gaza intentionally caused a very high number of fatalities and injuries among the civilian population. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/mde15/8774/2024/en/>

The violence has caused more than 46,000 deaths, including 1,000 health workers. In November 2024 it was reported that nearly 70% of the verified fatalities in Gaza as a result of the conflict are women and children. 90% of the 2.3 million people who live in the Gaza Strip have been displaced from their homes, struggling to find shelter, food and clean water. Polio was eradicated from the Gaza Strip in 1999, but a strain was detected in routine wastewater testing in July. A second vaccination campaign has been completed, integrating other health issues. However, humanitarian access to Gaza is now more restricted than ever.

**Lebanon:** In solidarity with Palestine, Iranian backed Hezbollah rockets were launched into Israel and Israel retaliated with air strikes and a ground invasion into Lebanon. During Israel's ground invasion, some 2,720 people were killed. Following the 7 October attacks tens of thousands were displaced in South Lebanon. Now, following the ceasefire (30.11.24), in Lebanon, an estimated 124,000 Lebanese remain displaced, but many cannot yet return home due to Israel's exclusion zone along the southern border.

**The West Bank** Meanwhile, between 7.10.23 and 1.10.24, some 700 people were killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, mostly by the Israeli Defence Forces and settler groups. At the same time, Israeli authorities have destroyed, demolished, confiscated, or forced the demolition of 1,478 Palestinian structures across the West Bank, displacing more than 3,477 Palestinians, including about 1,485 children. Thousands of Palestinian men and women have been detained without trial and are in Israeli prisons. Now Israel threatens to close down the United Nations' humanitarian operations in the West Bank.

**We 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.**

*Women in Black London call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire and an end to UK arms sales to Israel. The recent Government statement that 30 export licences have been cancelled is not enough. We call especially for the cancellation of all parts for Israel's F-35 warplanes used in air attacks. Dialogue, diplomacy and nonviolent means of securing peace offer the only way forward for the people of Palestine and Israel. As Amnesty has said: "states that continue to transfer arms to Israel, ...must know that they are violating their obligation to prevent genocide and are at risk of becoming complicit in genocide". Please share this leaflet with others and write to your own MP.*



**Women in Black** hold vigils every Wednesday between 6-7 pm at the Edith Cavell Statue, opposite 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**

*January 2025*