



**Women in  
Black London**

**Justice for Gaza  
and West Bank**

Women in Black London welcome the ceasefire in Gaza and the release of Israeli and Palestinian hostages. We are aware of the fragile nature of this ceasefire and urge all parties to comply with the conditions which have been agreed. The ceasefire is just the starting point of peacebuilding and full reconstruction in Gaza.

While we have seen images of people in Gaza moving from south to north, most of the homes, schools and hospitals have been destroyed, all that is left is rubble. 90% of the community face famine, disease and the fear of more violence. The people of Gaza have a right to receive the humanitarian aid they need to survive now and to be supported in their efforts to remain in their own land and rebuild their lives

In the West Bank, settler violence, detention without trial, Israeli Defence Force raids into refugee camps and villages have increased dramatically – often with members of the IDF looking on, doing nothing to protect the community. Defence for Children Palestine report that Israeli forces are detaining a record number of children in arbitrary detention.

<https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-260-west-bank> and

[https://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian\\_child\\_administrative\\_detainees\\_reach\\_all\\_time\\_high](https://www.dci-palestine.org/palestinian_child_administrative_detainees_reach_all_time_high)

Against this backdrop the fate of UNRWA lies in the balance. The State of Israel ordered UNRWA to vacate all premises in occupied East Jerusalem and cease its operations there by 30 January, so making its work in the West Bank and Gaza almost impossible. This order contradicts legal obligations of UN member states, including Israel. Philippe Lazzarini, UNRWA Commissioner General, has made it clear that only UNRWA has the capacity, knowledge and infrastructure to offer the aid that is needed.

<https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/notes/unrwa-may-be-forced-stop-saving-lives-gaza-will-world-let-happen>

**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.**

### What you can do:

- Support the OXFAM Petition to end arms sales to Israel. The ongoing risk of violence and violations of international law remains. The UK should have no part in sending arms or providing military training to Israel. <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/campaign-with-oxfam/end-uk-arms-sales-to-israel/>
- Write to Foreign Secretary David Lammy on the plight of UNRWA and to ask what immediate action the UK Government is taking and how it will increase humanitarian aid to Gaza and the West Bank. *FCDO, King Charles Street, London, SW1A 2AH*
- Share this leaflet with others and talk with them about what it is going to take to build real peace and security for the people of Palestine and Israel.



**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: <http://london.womeninblack.org/>  
Twitter @WIB\_London FB @womeninblack.london*

**Donations for leaflets most welcome**

**February 2025**