

Women in Black London

Justice for Gaza and West Bank

Women in Black London is greatly distressed at the increased Israeli military presence and bombing raids on Gaza and the blockade on humanitarian aid. An estimated 70,000 children are being hospitalised due to severe malnutrition. **Starvation is being used as a weapon.** The estimated death toll in Gaza now stands at 52,000+.

About half a million people have been displaced, yet again, in recent weeks as Israel continues to issue orders to 'clear' Gaza of people. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (*OCHAOPT*) report that for the past nine weeks, Israeli authorities have blocked all supplies from entering Gaza, no matter how vital to people's survival. Bakeries have shut. Community kitchens have closed. This has resulted in warehouses in northern Gaza being looted, often by armed groups of Palestinians.

But international law is unequivocal: As the occupying power, Israel must allow humanitarian support in. Aid, and the civilian lives it saves, should never be a bargaining chip. Blocking aid starves civilians. It leaves them without basic medical support. It strips them of dignity and hope. It inflicts a cruel collective punishment. Blocking aid kills.

Tom Fletcher, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs & Emergency Relief Coordinator 1 May 2025

In the West Bank settler violence increases, with raids on refugee camps and villages, often with members of the IDF looking on, doing nothing to protect the community. This year, Israeli forces have killed 99 people, the majority from refugee camps. Israeli forces are also detaining 112+ Palestinian children in administrative detention. In April alone, 8-under 16 year olds were shot dead by IDF soldiers.

<https://www.dci-palestine.org/tags/news>

24 Israeli hostages are still held in Gaza, their plight made more vulnerable by the renewed military action. This has become a key issue within Israel, with hundreds of people calling the Israeli government to open negotiation between Israel and Hamas to secure the freedom of the hostages.

We continue to believe that peace for Palestine and Israel will only be achieved by cooperation, diplomacy and the involvement of women in peace processes.

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 'allies to atrocities' work of Medical Aid to Palestine, Christian Aid and Save the Children which is working to end UK Government complicity in the Gaza and the West Bank <https://www.allytoatrocities.com/>

Write to Sir Keir Starmer demanding an end to arms sales to Israel and in particular F35 jets. Here you can find more background. <https://caat.org.uk/news/over-230-global-organisations-demand-governments-producing-f-35-jets-stop-arming-israel/> Here you can send your message <https://contact.no10.gov.uk/>



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