



Women in Black London

Justice for Gaza and West Bank

Women in Black London is horrified by what is happening in Gaza where **starvation is being used as a weapon**. We agree with the recent Quaker statement:

'Over the last three months, we have witnessed the deliberate mass starvation of a people and dismantling of almost all life-sustaining systems within Gaza. We have seen the forced movement of Palestinians and a stated intention to expel them from Gaza.' <https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-first-british-church-to-state-belief-that-genocide-underway-in-gaza>

It is also unacceptable that after blocking aid to Gaza for 3 months, Israel and the US then set up the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) to deliver aid instead of the UN. The result was complete chaos and deaths due to the GHF's lack of experience. The GHF's own head had resigned the previous day, saying that the GHF could not adhere 'to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence.' <https://www.middleeasteye.net/news/head-gaza-humanitarian-foundation-jake-wood-resignation-hours-before-launch>

The estimated death toll in Gaza now stands at 54/56,000+. The impact on children is especially terrible. **The UN, must be allowed to take in and distribute aid again.**

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 holding 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> Israeli forces are constantly demolishing homes in refugee camps and villages, and displacing people. Farmers are denied access to their land with Israeli forces damaging and destroying their crops. <https://www.ochaopt.org/content/humanitarian-situation-update-293-west-bank> We continue to believe that peace for Palestine and Israel will only be achieved by cooperation, diplomacy, the release of hostages, 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. Women in Black also hold a vigil on Saturday from 12-1pm on Euston Road outside Friends House. 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

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