



Women in Black London

While Gaza suffers Israel takes over the West Bank and the UK stays silent

While the international community fails to take action on Palestine, Israel is accelerating the establishment of illegal settlements in the West Bank. It now plans a 'bypass' road for the use of Israelis only, and a new wall in the North Jordan Valley, which will close off the core of the occupied West Bank and its roads to Palestinians. This is an area vital for the establishment of a future Palestinian state. The road is planned to lead to a large settlement, Ma'ale Adumim, to expand further and link to Jerusalem.

www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/13/israel-start-construction-bypass-west-bank-illegal-settlement

Israeli authorities also propose to approve 9,000 'settlement units' on the site of the former Jerusalem airport, and a project in Sheikh Jarrah (the mainly Palestinian area of East Jerusalem) to displace 40 families. These plans will massively expand the area of Jerusalem, bisecting the West Bank and further undermining the possibility of a two-state solution. It will also make it impossible to establish East Jerusalem as the future capital of a Palestinian state.

www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/1/12/israel-advances-fatal-settlement-plan-for-occupied-east-jerusalem

Having driven Palestinians out of the area, Israeli settlers have now taken control of an area of land, approximately 100 square miles, where Bedouin tribes have been living and farming for decades. www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jan/14/settlers-violence-ethnic-cleansing-west-bank-village

Israel has moved to close down UNRWA, depriving it of access to water, power, and communications. Israel also announced on 30 December 2025 a new regulation banning 37 international NGOs, including ActionAid, International Rescue Committee, Médecins Sans Frontières and Medical Aid for Palestinians, from operating in Gaza and the West Bank. UN experts say that the ban makes life unbearable for genocide survivors in Palestine.

All this is taking place while Israel continues its deadly attacks on Gaza, in defiance of the so-called ceasefire and the global community continues to fail to act. What chance is there for Trump's newly created Gaza "board of peace" a body he claims will steer the next phase of reconstruction and governance in the war-ravaged territory (though without any Palestinians or women included)?

- **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.
- **Support the work of Medical Aid for Palestinians** <https://www.map.org.uk/>.
- **Write to Sir Keir Starmer urging him to** use all possible means to protect and facilitate unhindered humanitarian access into Gaza and urge his "friends" in Israel to stop taking over the West Bank.
- **Support calls for the release of Marwan Barghouti**, imprisoned for 23 years in Israel. He is said to be Palestine's most popular leader. A powerful symbol of unity and a long-time advocate for freedom and dignity for the Palestinian people. <https://freemarwan.org/#take-action>

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 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. **FB** @womeninblack.london www.london.womeninblack.org/

Donations for leaflets most welcome

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