

Gaza

7th July 2026 marked the thousandth day since October 7th 2023 when Hamas attacked Israel, killing some 1,200 people and taking hostage more than 240. On 27th October Israel began its destruction of Gaza. Since then, 90% of the Gaza Strip has been reduced to rubble, with Israel in control of 80% of its territory. At least 77,000 Palestinians have been killed, of whom 21,500 were children. There are also reports that Israel is blocking access to medical care for Palestinians. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/7/palestine-weekly-one-thousand-days-of-genocide-in-gaza>

Many Palestinians have been forced to move multiple times and have thus lost everything including access to food and farmland. According to the UN, 98.5 percent of cropland in the Gaza Strip is either damaged, inaccessible (due to imposed 'no-go' zones), or both. <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/fao-press-release-09aug25/> Yet trade between the UK and Israel continues to be strong.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6a351ffde590e5e061c9a30d/israel-trade-and-investment-factsheet-2026-06-23.pdf>

Palestine

Israel continues to expand settlements in the West Bank, recently approving 13 new ones, strategically placed to increase Israel's control and to further isolate East Jerusalem, intended as the capital of a future Palestinian state. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/7/6/israels-smotrich-declares-revolution-in-west-bank-settlement-expansion> and <https://www.icjpalastine.com/2026/07/03/israels-approval-of-new-illegal-settlements-will-further-isolate-east-jerusalem-and-deepen-its-unlawful-occupation/>

'Since January 2023, Israeli settler violence and access restrictions have displaced 6,200 Palestinians across the West Bank, more than a third of them in the first half of this year.' This means that ever more Palestinian communities are being displaced, often more than once: 'Families continue to face threats of eviction, loss of livelihoods, inadequate housing, and restricted access to essential services, after displacement', and as the West Bank Protection Consortium (WBPC) reports, 'Displacement means families can no longer farm their land, graze their livestock or earn the income they need to survive.' <https://www.nrc.no/news/2026/west-bank-settler-violence-forces-palestinians-from-their-homes-into-worsening-conditions>

However, there are also growing protests by former Israeli prime ministers and other important figures, for example a letter to Netanyahu and the military notes: "The crimes of Jewish terrorism in the territories are reminiscent of similar crimes and pogroms committed against our people by other nations in eastern Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries." <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/jun/24/israeli-former-leaders-security-chiefs-legal-action-jewish-terrorism-west-bank>

Lebanon

Hezbollah, an ally of Iran, was founded in 1982 in response to an earlier invasion of Lebanon by Israel. Following the US/Israeli attack on Iran in February 2026, it attacked Israel from Lebanon. Israel's counter-attacks on southern Lebanon continue in spite of the most recent ceasefire, announced in June, for example, on the city of Nabatieh. Israel also made a drone guided weapon attack on a car in which three women and a man were returning from visiting relatives in Nabatieh, killing all of them, claiming they posed a 'security threat'. Israel currently occupies a large portion of southern Lebanon and is destroying infrastructure linking it to the rest of the country. It has also expelled more than 1.2 million Lebanese, saying they cannot return until security can be guaranteed for the inhabitants of northern Israel.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_occupation_of_Southern_Lebanon_\(2026\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_occupation_of_Southern_Lebanon_(2026))

We believe that it is vital to include women in peace negotiations. We stand in solidarity with women in Gaza, Palestine and Lebanon and 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 women in Lebanon, 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. 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.

Facebook: [@womeninblack.london](https://www.facebook.com/womeninblack.london)

Donations for leaflets welcome

Website: london.womeninblack.org

July 2026