

**To: The Chair and Members of the Foreign Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London, United Kingdom**

Subject: Recommendations for UK Policy Regarding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Written evidence submitted anonymously (IPC0032)

Dear Members of the Committee,

I, [REDACTED], am writing to you as a British citizen of Palestinian descent, whose family has been directly impacted by the injustices of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. My grandparents were forcibly displaced from their homes in Haifa during the Nakba, an event recognised globally as a grave injustice. To this day, my family and I are barred from returning to the land of our heritage solely because of our Palestinian identity. This personal history gives me a unique perspective on the enduring human toll of this conflict, and it underscores the importance of a fair and principled approach by the UK government.

The current escalation in Gaza and the West Bank presents an urgent moral, legal, and diplomatic challenge. Unfortunately and contrary to the comment the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the apartheid and the occupation against Palestinian people did not start on the 7th of October 2023. And the suffering of Palestinian people has been going on for decades, as highlighted by multiple international humanitarian organisations such as Amnesty International, OXFAM and even the Israeli B'Tselem. The UK must therefore align its policies with its commitment to justice, human rights, and international law. I urge the government to adopt the following measures as part of its foreign policy framework:

- 1. Cease all arms sales to Israel.**
- 2. Revoke British citizenship from British-Israeli soldiers who have participated in the war in Gaza.**
- 3. Expel the Israeli ambassador to the UK.**
- 4. Recognise Palestine as a sovereign state based on the 1967 borders,** as recognised under international law, following the example of European countries such as Spain, Ireland, and Norway, under the sole leadership of the **Palestinian Authority**, excluding Hamas from governance.

These recommendations address immediate humanitarian concerns, reflect the UK's broader foreign policy commitments, and provide a pathway for long-term peace. Moreover, they are consistent with the UK's response to similar international crises, such as Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, and domestic precedents, such as the revocation of Shamima Begum's citizenship for her association with ISIS.

Below, I address key questions raised by this inquiry and expand on the rationale behind these recommendations.

1. What can – and should – the UK do, in cooperation with regional and international partners, to help bring about a ceasefire?

The UK has a critical role to play in de-escalating the conflict and working toward an immediate ceasefire. As a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and a nation with a strong commitment to human rights, the UK can take the following actions:

Cease Arms Sales to Israel

Continuing arms sales to Israel undermines the UK's credibility as a neutral mediator and risks complicity in actions that violate international law. The ongoing conflict has resulted in disproportionate harm to civilians, with the destruction of vital infrastructure and the loss of thousands of innocent lives in Gaza. Halting arms sales would:

- **Send a strong diplomatic message** that the UK does not condone the use of force against civilians.
- **Reduce the escalation of violence** by cutting off resources that enable further military aggression.
- **Uphold international law** by ensuring that UK-manufactured weapons are not used to commit war crimes.

Engage International Legal Mechanisms

The UK must support the enforcement of International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrants against Israeli leaders accused of war crimes, including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant. Holding these individuals accountable is essential for deterring future violations and restoring faith in the international justice system.

Collaborate with Regional and International Partners

The UK should leverage its relationships with the European Union, the United States, and regional actors such as Jordan and Egypt to broker a ceasefire. This includes:

- **Facilitating humanitarian aid:** Immediate and unrestricted access to Gaza for medical supplies, food, and water must be ensured.
- **Promoting confidence-building measures:** Supporting prisoner exchanges, easing blockades, and suspending settlement expansions can lay the groundwork for further negotiations.

Recognise Palestine as a Sovereign State

By recognising Palestine as a state based on the 1967 borders, the UK would affirm the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and strengthen their position in negotiations. This step would:

- Align the UK with countries such as Spain, Ireland, and Norway that have already recognised Palestine.
- Demonstrate a commitment to a two-state solution as the foundation for lasting peace.
- Bolster international diplomatic efforts by granting Palestine greater legitimacy in multilateral forums.

2. What can be learned from the record of UK Government policies to date?

The UK's approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has often been marked by inconsistency, which has hindered its ability to contribute effectively to peace efforts. Key lessons include:

Avoiding Complicity in Violence

By continuing arms sales to Israel, the UK has risked enabling actions that violate international law and exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. A more principled stance is necessary to uphold the UK's commitment to human rights.

Inconsistent Application of International Law

While the UK has taken firm action against Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, including sanctions, arms embargoes, and vocal condemnation, it has been less assertive in addressing Israel's violations of international law. This inconsistency undermines the UK's credibility and weakens its moral authority on the global stage.

Missed Opportunities for Leadership

The UK has often deferred to the United States or other actors in addressing the conflict, rather than leading robust initiatives for a just resolution. By recognizing Palestine as a state and promoting accountability for war crimes, the UK can take a leadership role in advancing peace.

3. How can the UK assure the resilience of efforts to bring about a lasting peace at a time of uncertainty caused by conflicts elsewhere and changes in leadership in the international community?

The UK must adopt a long-term, values-driven approach to ensure the resilience of peace efforts. This includes:

Support for International Justice

Reinforcing institutions such as the ICC and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is essential for holding all parties accountable for violations of international law. This is consistent with the UK's approach to other conflicts, such as its support for ICC investigations into Russian war crimes in Ukraine.

Promoting Accountability

The UK revoked Shamima Begum's citizenship for her association with ISIS, citing national security concerns. Similar standards should apply to British-Israeli soldiers who have participated in actions that violate international law in Gaza. Revoking their citizenship would:

- Send a clear message that the UK does not tolerate participation in illegal military activities.
- Demonstrate a consistent application of domestic and international law.

Investing in Regional Cooperation

The UK should work closely with regional partners to create conditions for lasting peace. This includes:

- **Economic development:** Supporting the reconstruction of Gaza and promoting economic cooperation between Israel and Palestine.
- **Security guarantees:** Ensuring that any peace agreement includes robust mechanisms to protect both Palestinian and Israeli civilians.

Recognising Palestine

Recognising Palestine as a sovereign state would provide a framework for addressing core issues such as borders, settlements, and the status of Jerusalem. This recognition would also:

- Encourage other countries to follow suit, creating momentum for a two-state solution.
- Strengthen Palestinian leadership and institutions, making them more effective partners in negotiations.

As a British-Palestinian, I deeply appreciate the opportunity to address my government on this critical matter. It is my sincere hope that these words will not fall on deaf ears and that the UK will rise to the challenge of upholding justice, human rights, and international law.

Yours sincerely,

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30th December 2024