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Submission by Concerned People of Nottingham

A. Introduction

1. We are ordinary people, living primarily in Nottingham, including citizens, elected officials, people from countries formerly colonised by the UK, refugees (including Palestinian) and EU citizens. We and our families have felt the impact of British foreign policy historically and today.
2. We are concerned how our taxes, pension contributions and funds of government linked bodies (including the NHS) are used, which may be contributing to Palestinian harm and other human rights violations in the Levant. We have been experiencing second hand trauma, as for the first time, we witness a live-streamed genocide, since October 2023.
3. We have been marching, signing petitions, writing to our MPs with our demands in support of Palestine. We feel unheard by the government as it fails to take strong action.
4. While some of us have agreed for our names to be identified for submission purposes, there were a number who chose to stay anonymous, mainly for fear of work and career repercussions. It is unfortunate that standing up for human rights and justice in the UK has this impact, especially in relation to Palestine.

B. Summary

5. We take the lead from Palestinian voices, as supported by the majority of countries. In answering the committee's three questions, our submission outlines the UK's inconsistent position and how it can regain trust and show collaborative leadership among international partners (in its stand over Palestine).
6. We describe the need for UK government action:
 1. Implement sanctions against Israel and its leaders (similar to Russia), specifically:
 - a) Arms embargo;
 - b) Sanctions against complicit Israeli government officials;
 - c) Denial of visas to Israelis directly involved in genocide;

- d) Coordinated effort to arrest and prosecute Israeli war criminals; and
 - e) Act against UK citizens who have served with the IDF since late 2023 in the same way it has acted against UK citizens who have served with ISIS.
2. Dissolve all current state contracts with Israel and moratorium on considering any entities domiciled in Israel from participating in government contract bidding.
 3. Cut academic ties with all institutions in Israel and Israeli dealings in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).
 4. Recognise Palestine and Palestinian's rights to self determination, including how the UK votes at the UN General Assembly and Security Council.
 5. Acknowledge Palestine as a sovereign state.
 6. Acknowledge the UK's role in Palestine's history and apologise for its harm.
 7. Make reparations:
 - a) Replace Israeli bilateral treaties, with treaties with the state of Palestine. This can include trade, technology transfer, capacity building through university partnerships, and visas for Palestinians and families to study and work in the UK.
 - b) Support and enhance programmes like Oxford's scholarships for Palestinians, and Pal Med Academy which provides continuing education for Gaza's medical students whose universities have been destroyed.
 - c) Provide special asylum process for Palestinians, similar to Ukrainians.
 - d) Provide medical assistance by allowing Palestinians who require urgent medical treatment to be treated in the UK (including their families) as Gaza hospitals have been destroyed.
 8. Comply with its obligations under international law as outlined by the the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its advisory opinion (details below), specifically:
 - a) Review all trade treaties with Israel, remove any dealings with Israel that pertain to the OPT. If this is unclear or hard to unravel, end the treaty with Israel on the basis of compliance with international law.
 - b) Divestment of Pension investment from all investments linked to Israel.
 9. Enforce a ceasefire: Full arms embargo, including spare parts of fighter jets and any support, including surveillance and sanction actions as described above.
 10. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK can and should use its power to propose and vote for economic sanctions against Israel.
7. ***How to read this submission. The answers to the three questions are addressed, with suggested actions throughout this document highlighted in Bold.***

C. Opening Statement

8. We believe that in today's globalised world, the UK should honour each state's sovereignty and self determination of people across the world. The UK government has given much space to the occupier, Israel with its calls for "Israel's right to defend itself"¹ yet little space for those being colonised: the Palestinians.
9. In addressing this severe power imbalance, we centre and take the lead from Palestinians and urge the Committee to do the same.
10. Adeb Shaheen is a Palestinian Ukrainian refugee living in Nottingham. His message forms the heart of our submission. His book, "*It is War: The Powerful are Shameless*". will be published in early 2025. His book covers his life, including Ukraine leading up to the invasion and his youth in the West Bank and Jordan. His insights in witnessing a war and genocide of his two countries in parallel and the UK's reaction to both, is unique.

"To the Foreign Affairs Committee of the UK Parliament,

I understand that you have shown some concern after more than a year of GENOCIDE, the crime of all crimes that is unfolding in front of all the world without any serious attempt to stop it.

You, British MPs, are the representatives of the British people. You are responsible to your constituents and your conscience to comply with British and international law as part of the international community.

I am a Palestinian whose whole life is a testimony of a crime against my people. There are 14 million such living testimonies, not to mention those who lost their lives in various ways while struggling, fighting the British, and later, the Israeli occupation. All while just trying to live their peaceful life in their homes, farm their lands and raise their children.

I was born geographically in Palestine, but had a Jordanian birth certificate. After less than 9 years I was given an Israeli identification number.

Why?

Because my hometown Nablus was occupied by the Israeli "defence" forces. A year later my father was exiled to Jordan by the occupation authorities. My mother was

¹ A country does not have the right to defend itself against a people whose land, it unlawfully occupies. UN Special Rapporteur, Francesca Albanese has consistently said Israel has no right to defend itself from Palestinians, since November 2023.
<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2023/11/15/un-special-rapporteur-israel-cant-claim-right-of-self-defence>

forced to leave the occupied Palestinian territories with her four children to Jordan to join my father.

All that happened to me later was linked to the very simple fact that I am a Palestinian, an “ordinary” Palestinian.

When you are a Palestinian nothing can be ordinary in your life. You might have a British, a Colombian or a Jordanian passport, but you can't have a Palestinian one. Even after the Oslo accords, there are some of us who have a “passport” or travel document that does not mention our citizenship. Some of us have an Israeli ID for the occupied East Jerusalem “citizens”, once again without citizenship. The Palestinians in Lebanon, for example, have Lebanese travel documents for the Palestinian refugees. At last, we have the most “privileged” Palestinians who have Israeli passports and citizenship but without the full package of rights as other citizens, because they live in a “Jewish” state that was established on the LAND OF PALESTINE².

All the misery that follows the Palestinians, including me and my family, stems from the huge injustice, occupation, oppression of the Palestinian people for the last 107 years. They all began with one British document – the infamous Balfour Declaration.

Your obligation as representatives of the British citizens and part of the international community is to do all that is in your power, and you have a lot of it, to stop the crime that is being committed with the British government's enabling and engagement, to restore justice and peace in the Middle East.

I believe that the British Parliament has lots of gears to do a lot in that direction.

Allow me to remind you of two simple things you can do:

- *Declare an apology for the Balfour Declaration and the British occupation of Palestine (1917 - 1948).*
- *Oblige the British government to comply with the International Law and do all it can to stop the genocide committed by the Israeli army in Gaza and the West Bank.*

What is happening in Palestine is not a conflict. It is on the one hand occupation and oppression³ and, on the other hand, resistance⁴ to the occupation and oppression.

² This constitutes apartheid and violates the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) which Israel and Palestine are parties to.

³ The International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion on the *Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* of 19 July 2024 <https://www.icj-cij.org/case/186> confirmed that Israel is illegally occupying the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and that its treatment of Palestinians violates the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

With my best regards to your esteemed committee, the British parliament and the British people and congratulations on Christmas (the birthday of the Palestinian messenger of peace, love and justice) and the New Year.

Adeeb Shaheen”

D. The Committees 'Three Questions

11. Taking the lead from our Palestinian voices and Nottingham activists who have followed Britain's role over 100 years which culminate in the atrocities in Palestine today, we attempt to address the Committee's three questions. As they are interconnected, we address them collectively.

1. What can – and should – the UK do, in cooperation with regional and international partners, to help bring about a ceasefire?
2. What can be learned from the record of UK Government policies to date?
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?

12. We note two flawed premises with this framing:

1. The title of the submission “Israeli Palestinian conflict” is what Palestinian writer Ghassan Kanafani called ‘a conversation between the sword and the neck ’in 1970⁵. The oppressor is NOT equal to the people they oppress. The oppressed deserve protection against the oppressor.
2. The questions are loaded and we grappled with their intent. The heart of the issue is the UK's role in the events leading up to genocide since the time of the “British Empire”, its reluctance to address its historical complicity⁶ and its abrogation of responsibility while it can and should take a much stronger stance towards Israel, similar to Russia (in relation to Ukraine).

⁴ ICJ in its Advisory Opinion confirmed that Palestinians have a right to self determination and Israel's policies and practices in the OPT are violating Palestinians 'rights.

⁵ Ghassan Kanafani, *Selected Political Writings* (eds Louis Brehony and Tahrir Hamdi). Pluto Press 2024

⁶ We were disappointed in the prime minister's refusal to address transatlantic slave trade reparations despite the requests of 56 Commonwealth Heads of Government at the CHOGM Summit in October.

E. The UK's Global Standing

13. The UK is at risk of global isolation (along with the US and Germany) if it fails to recognise that the overwhelming majority of nations stand with Palestine⁷. Palestine reflects occupation, apartheid, settler colonialism and now genocide, elements of which many countries and their people have experienced over the past few centuries, including our own ancestors.
14. Palestine is the symbol of collective liberation abroad and at home.
15. What the UK government is now witnessing are the voices of nations who are standing up to imperialism, past and present.
16. The UK government has a choice. Embrace the global majority view and remain relevant. Or continue to sidestep Palestinian oppression and lose any sense of leadership on the global stage. In the West - Ireland, Spain and Norway (all of whom border the UK) have stepped up through embargos and/or divesting sovereign wealth funds from Israeli and genocide complicit stocks.
17. If the UK continues to support its "friend" the USA which unequivocally backs Israel, it risks losing its goodwill built up particularly, in the Global South, jeopardising trade deals and international relations. As Donald Trump takes the presidency in the US in January, and the uncertainty of German elections with the rise of the far right, both countries may take increasingly isolationist stances. A post Brexit UK cannot afford to further alienate international partners outside Europe.
18. Bringing about "lasting peace"⁸ in cooperation with regional and international partners requires integrity, and moral and ethical standing, which for the UK has been wanting.

F. UK Hypocrisy

19. The UK has been inconsistent in its approach on international humanitarian law, which appears hypocritical and may even be perceived as racist, favouring Global North "white" nations over Global South nations.

For instance:

⁷ 143 UN member states voted at the UN General Assembly on 10 May 2024 to upgrade Palestine's membership, while the UK abstained (along with 24 other states). 9 voted against.

⁸ We prefer the term "sustainable". Peace is not lasting or sustainable without acknowledgement of harm, justice, liberation and reparations.

Inconsistency 1: preventing “Genocide”

20. The UK is a member of the Genocide Convention enforceable domestically through the International Criminal Court Act 2001.
21. On 15 November 2023, the UK filed a joint declaration of intervention (with Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, and the Netherlands) in *The Gambia v Myanmar* at the ICJ. The Gambia argued that Myanmar’s security forces perpetrate widespread and systemic “clearance operations” against the Rohingya, and that “genocidal acts committed during these operations were intended to destroy the Rohingya as a group, in whole or in part, by the use of mass murder, rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as the systematic destruction by fire of their villages, often with inhabitants locked inside burning houses”.
22. The FCDO’s statement⁹ reads: “*Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are exercising the right to intervene in this case under Article 63(2) of the Statute of the Court in order to set out their interpretation of the relevant provisions of the Genocide Convention before the Court. They recall that the Genocide Convention requires States Parties to **prevent the crime of genocide** and **hold those responsible to account.***” (emphasis ours).
23. The UK submission on Myanmar argues there is a lower threshold for determining genocide if the damage has been inflicted on children as opposed to adults. The submission said other actions that could be defined as genocidal, if systematic, include forced displacement from homes, deprivation of medical services and the imposition of subsistence diets¹⁰.
24. We need not state how many more children have been killed in Gaza, are maimed, displaced, lost parents and other family members, deprived of medical services and are dying of famine as confirmed by numerous UN and other international agencies including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, Oxfam, and the World Food Programme.
25. Yet the UK government has not explicitly recognised that what is happening in Palestine is genocide and meets the definition of genocide¹¹ within the meaning of Article II¹² of the Genocide Convention.

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/intervention-by-uk-and-partners-in-the-gambia-v-myanmar-icj-case-joint-statement#:~:text=News%20story-,Intervention%20by%20UK%20and%20partners%20in%20The%20Gambia%20v%20Myanmar,by%20The%20Gambia%20against%20Myanmar>.

¹⁰ Taken from The Guardian, *UK accused of hypocrisy in not backing claim of genocide in Gaza before ICJ* 7 January 2024.
<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2024/jan/07/uk-accused-of-hypocrisy-in-not-backing-claim-of-genocide-in-gaza-before-icj>

¹¹ The government does not need confirmation that there is a genocide, although the United Nations

26. The UK is bound under Article I of the Genocide Convention:

“The Contracting Parties confirm that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish.”

27. We are not seeing this commitment.

28. To date, the Green Party of England and Wales is the only UK political party that has acknowledged that Palestine are facing a genocide¹³. In the recent general election, parties’ political positions on Palestine did impact voter outcomes, with considerable dents in some major Labour candidates’ margins.

Inconsistency 2: Sanctions against Russia for its invasion of Ukraine, but not against Israel.

29. The UK was quick to impose sanctions on Russia, since its invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, along with its Western partners, freezing Russia’s foreign currency reserves and assets, banning exports of technology Russia might use for making weapons, sanctioning oligarchs and prohibiting imports of gold, diamonds, and oil.

30. We are not seeing similar steps taken against Israel and its leaders.

31. The UK’s initial challenge to the ICC’s chief prosecutor’s application for arrest warrants against Israeli and Palestinian leaders (since dropped by the Labour government) weakened its global reputation. The current government’s response to questions on whether it would enforce the warrants is muted. Amnesty International UK’s Chief Executive Sacha Deshmukh said¹⁴:

Human Rights Council, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and other international organisations have confirmed that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinians.

¹² Article II reads: *“In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”*

¹³ During their Party Conference in September. Ellie Chowns, Green Party MP for North Herefordshire, said: *“This motion reflects International Humanitarian Law, including the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and it is essential that British political parties unequivocally uphold these basic minimum standards of international law.”*

<https://greenparty.org.uk/2024/09/09/greens-become-first-political-party-in-england-and-wales-to-recognise-israeli-government-conduct-as-apartheid-and-genocide/>

¹⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/israel-opt-uk-should-unequivocally-back-icc-arrest->

“In opposition the Foreign Secretary said in government his party would comply with any arrest warrants issued by the International Criminal Court, and we now need to see Mr Lammy and the whole UK government unequivocally backing this vitally important move by the ICC.

“The UK’s standing as a genuine supporter of the rule of law requires consistency and even-handedness - if war crimes are wrong when carried out by Russian forces in unlawfully-occupied Ukraine, then they’re equally wrong when carried out by Israeli forces in unlawfully-occupied Palestinian territory.”

32. **ACTION: Implement sanctions against Israel and its leaders, similar to Russia. Specifically:**
1. **Arms embargo**
 2. **Sanctions against complicit Israeli government officials**
 3. **Denial of visas to Israelis directly involved in genocide**
 4. **Coordinated effort to arrest and prosecute Israeli war criminals**
 5. **Act against UK citizens who have served with the IDF since late 2023 in the same way it has acted against UK citizens who have served with ISIS.**

Inconsistency 3: Palestinian Statehood and Israel’s Unlawful Occupation

33. At the UN General Assembly on 18 September 2024, 124 out of 181 countries voted for Israel to end its unlawful occupation of the OPT within a year. Despite the UK government stating that it believes in a two state solution, it abstained along with 42 other states. 14 voted against, including the USA and Israel.
34. We note the positive change among several Western/ OECD nations. 13 EU states voted to end the Israeli occupation, along with New Zealand, Japan, Brazil, South Africa, Russia and China.
35. **ACTION: At UN General Assembly and Security Council, honour the wishes of the majority of member states to recognise Palestine and Palestinian’s rights to self determination.**

G. What can and should the UK do

36. To regain trust with international partners, the UK needs to:

ONE: Acknowledge Palestine as a sovereign state (ACTION)

37. In 2014, the House of Commons voted to recognise the state of Palestine¹⁵ yet abstained in the UN Security Council vote on 18 April 2024¹⁶ for Palestine's full membership in the UN. The US veto blocked Palestine's entry. A public petition with 283,669 signatures was submitted to the UK Parliament in February 2024, stating¹⁷:

"We believe that the Government needs to recognise the state of Palestine immediately. Otherwise we don't think they can legitimately say they back a two-state solution.

"Because we want the people of Palestine to know we see them, recognise their struggle and take responsibility for our part in it."

38. We urge the Committee to note the MP's sentiments during the public debate on the petition.

39. The government's response at the time was focused on the need for peace - which of course requires a ceasefire, where one of the parties (Israel) has since increased its destruction not just of Palestine, but military incursions into Lebanon and Syria; while blatantly violating international humanitarian law, as well as the ICJ, ICC and UN.

40. Do not make recognition of statehood conditional on the actions of the oppressor.

TWO: Acknowledge its role in Palestine's history and apologise (ACTION)

41. The events leading up to and since the Balfour Declaration¹⁸ have failed to acknowledge the presence of Palestinians and they have been shut out of decisions involving their own fate.

42. Over 800,000 Palestinians were displaced following the 1948 Nakba. In Nottingham, we hear of residents' family members, many since deceased who slept with the keys of their lost homes under their pillows¹⁹. The UK has had a history of "drawing borders" which has caused not just displacement, but communal violence. The India-Pakistan partition resulted in possibly one to two million deaths.

¹⁵ *MPs back Palestinian statehood alongside Israel*, BBC 14 October 2014

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-29596822>

¹⁶ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15670.doc.htm>

¹⁷ <https://petition.parliament.uk/archived/petitions/653509>

¹⁸ This is well documented by historians Rashid Khalidi (*The Hundred Years War on Palestine*) and Ilan Pappé (*The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*).

¹⁹ The "key of return" is a Palestinian symbol.

43. For this reason it is not for the UK to decide what the solution should be. It is for Palestinians to decide (whether they want a two state or one state solution), and the UK to respect and facilitate their decision.
44. The UK must drop its “empire” and imperial attitude. Listen to and centre the most in need: the oppressed (Palestine), *not* the oppressor (Israel).

THREE: Make reparations (ACTION)

45. This doesn't necessarily mean cash, but to make amends so that victims get back what was theirs before the harm. In this case, return of stolen land, and rebuilding of what has been destroyed.
46. How?
47. **Return stolen land:** The ICJ Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024²⁰ confirmed that under international law, Israel's occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) is unlawful and that Israel needs to withdraw. The UK's obligation (along with all other UN member states) is to abstain²¹ from treaties with Israel where it includes the OPT. Under the Conservative government, the UK signed the [2030 Roadmap for Israel-UK Bilateral Relations](#)²². The UK must cease this treaty as well as any other treaties with Israel immediately.
48. **ACTION: Review all trade treaties with Israel, remove any dealings with Israel that pertain to the OPT. If this is unclear or hard to unravel, end the treaty with Israel on the basis of compliance with international law.**
49. **Rebuild what has been destroyed.** Together with regional and international partners, the UK should take stock of what Israel has destroyed, especially in Gaza, described as an open air prison by David Cameron²³, with 2.3 million people (before the current genocide began) within an area a quarter the size of London²⁴. A year of bombing

²⁰ The ICJ Advisory Opinion of 19 July 2024 on the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>

²¹ Para 278 of the ICJ Advisory Opinion confirms that States have “the obligation to abstain from treaty relations with Israel in all cases in which it purports to act on behalf of the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part thereof on matters concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part of its territory; to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory; to abstain, in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, from any recognition of its illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

²² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2030-roadmap-for-uk-israel-bilateral-relations>

²³ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-10778110> Cameron was not the first to say this

²⁴ *UN official says it could take 14 years to clear debris in Gaza*, Reuters 14 April 2024

destroyed two thirds of Gaza's buildings and infrastructure including all hospitals and universities as well as most schools, mosques and churches. Agriculture and industry have been decimated. More has been destroyed since.

50. Numerous scholars, NGOs and other organisations including the ICJ²⁵ have stated their belief that Israel and its allies are carrying out a combination of “genocidal actions, ethnic cleansing and annexation of the Gaza Strip.” Omer Bartov (Professor of Holocaust and genocide studies, Brown University) also states “There was actually a systematic attempt to make Gaza uninhabitable, as well as to destroy all institutions that make it possible for a group to sustain itself, not only physically but also culturally”.
51. Geneva-based independent Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor reported in January 2024²⁶ that Israel systemically destroyed every university in Gaza in stages. By that date, 95 university professors have been killed, of whom 68 held professor's degrees, according to Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor.
52. This is nothing short of epistemicide, the destruction of institutions of knowledge and academicians making it harder for Palestinians to rebuild their lives and culture.
53. Back in April, the UN stated it would take 14 years²⁷ to clear the rubble, not to mention the contaminants including phosphorus.
54. As we write this, Israel has destroyed the last remaining hospital in Gaza, Kamal Adwan Hospital, denying Gazans urgent medical aid. *Note Article II (c) of the Genocide Convention where the meaning of genocide includes:“ Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part”.*
55. **ACTION: Replace Israeli bilateral treaties, with treaties with the state of Palestine. This can include trade, technology transfer, capacity building through university partnerships, visas for Palestinians and families to study and work in the UK.**
56. **ACTION: Support and enhance programmes like Oxford's scholarships for Palestinians, and Pal Med Academy²⁸ which provides continuing education for Gaza's medical students whose universities have been destroyed.**

[https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-official-says-it-could-take-14-years-clear-debris-gaza-2024-04-26/#:~:text=GENEVA%2C%20April%2026%20\(Reuters\),Nations%20official%20said%20on%20Frida](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-official-says-it-could-take-14-years-clear-debris-gaza-2024-04-26/#:~:text=GENEVA%2C%20April%2026%20(Reuters),Nations%20official%20said%20on%20Frida)

[V](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-official-says-it-could-take-14-years-clear-debris-gaza-2024-04-26/#:~:text=GENEVA%2C%20April%2026%20(Reuters),Nations%20official%20said%20on%20Frida)

²⁵ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240524-sum-01-00-enc.pdf>

²⁶ <https://euromedmonitor.org/en/article/6108/Israel-kills-dozens-of-academics,-destroys-every-university-in-the-Gaza-Strip>

²⁷ [https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-official-says-it-could-take-14-years-clear-debris-gaza-2024-04-26/#:~:text=GENEVA%2C%20April%2026%20\(Reuters\),Nations%20official%20said%20on%20Frida](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-official-says-it-could-take-14-years-clear-debris-gaza-2024-04-26/#:~:text=GENEVA%2C%20April%2026%20(Reuters),Nations%20official%20said%20on%20Frida)

[V](https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/un-official-says-it-could-take-14-years-clear-debris-gaza-2024-04-26/#:~:text=GENEVA%2C%20April%2026%20(Reuters),Nations%20official%20said%20on%20Frida)

²⁸ <https://palmedacademy.com/>

FOUR: Enforce a Ceasefire

57. In order to rebuild, the bombing must stop: an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire.

58. As the committee is well aware, Israel has ignored all ceasefire demands, including UN resolutions and the ICJ provisional measures²⁹. Diplomacy is not working, and it's time for the UK to take stronger measures.

59. ACTION:

- 1. As a permanent member of the UN Security Council, the UK can and should use its power to propose and vote for economic sanctions against Israel.**
- 2. Full arms embargo including spare parts of fighter jets and any support, including surveillance.**
- 3. Divestment of Pension investment from all investments linked to Israel.**
- 4. Dissolution on all current state contracts with Israel and moratorium on considering any entities domiciled in Israel from participating in government contract bidding.**
- 5. Cut academic ties with all institutions in Israel and the unlawfully Occupied Palestinian Territories.**
- 6. Influence other Western partners to initiate sanctions.**

FIVE: Comply with International law

60. To ensure the UK's standing and credibility with regional and international partners, the UK must comply with international law and honour the wishes of the global community as indicated through UN resolutions.

61. As a signatory to the Genocide Convention and Geneva Conventions, the UK and other signatory states are bound to:

1. Prevent a genocide (explained above)
2. Comply with international law as confirmed in ICJ's Advisory Opinion on *Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem* of 19 July 2024 ³⁰

62. ICJ confirmed UN member states obligations, including the UK, to³¹:

²⁹ While the **DATE** January ICJ decision may not have explicitly used the word "ceasefire", to all effects and purposes, the provisional measures ordered against Israel required a ceasefire.

³⁰ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>

1. Ensure an end to Israel's illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT)³²
2. Abstain from treaty relations with Israel relating to the OPT
3. Abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the OPT
4. Abstain from recognising Israel's illegal presence in the OPT in its establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel; and
5. take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of Israel's illegal occupation of the OPT.

63. Note that Israel is bound by international law to:

1. immediately cease all new settlement activities;
2. evacuate all 750,000 Israeli settlers from the OPT (within a year, based on the UNGA resolution); and
3. make reparations for damages caused to Palestinians.

64. **ACTION: Comply with its obligations under international law as outlined by the ICJ in its advisory opinion.**

H. Conclusion

65. In the words of the British public who signed the petition to Parliament: ***We want the people of Palestine to know we see them, recognise their struggle and take responsibility for our part in it.***

66. We assert that there can be no rationale for the horrific acts of violence that result in the loss of innocent children's lives, the bombing of hospitals, and the targeted attacks on medical personnel and hospital patients, whether in Gaza or any other location. Such atrocities represent a profound moral failing and pose a grave threat not only to the people of Palestine but to the very fabric of our shared humanity.

³¹ Para 278 of the ICJ Advisory Opinion confirms that States have "the obligation to abstain from treaty relations with Israel in all cases in which it purports to act on behalf of the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part thereof on matters concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or a part of its territory; to abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory or parts thereof which may entrench its unlawful presence in the territory; to abstain, in the establishment and maintenance of diplomatic missions in Israel, from any recognition of its illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory; and to take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal situation created by Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

³² Para 274 read with 275 of the Advisory Opinion "all States must co-operate with the United Nations to put those modalities into effect" being "the modalities required to ensure an end to Israel's illegal presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the full realization of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination

67. If, directly or indirectly, our government has played any role in facilitating or supporting such blatant breaches of international law and violations of human compassion, the repercussions will undoubtedly reflect back upon us. These actions risk undermining the foundational values of our British society, which we are bound to protect and uphold. To ignore this erosion of principles is to endanger not only our international standing but also the moral integrity of our nation.

68. We thank the Committee for the opportunity to submit our points and trust we will be heard.

31 December 2024