

Written evidence submitted anonymously (IPC0091)

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

Stop arming countries accused of genocide. A ceasefire can never be brought whilst weapons are being supplied like water to a country whose leaders are currently wanted by the ICC. If the UK wants to maintain any premise that it seeks a ceasefire it needs to stop enabling this genocide by supplying the weapons used to enact it. Without this any question on how to achieve this is academic and cannot be taken seriously. The UK must stop selling weapons to Israel and must stop militarily and diplomatically aiding Israel in conducting their genocide, including in areas such as surveillance and targeting individuals.

Sanction Israel. This includes an economical, political, social and academic sanction. Enact this sanction with the clear aim of lifting it when the ceasefire is lifted and Israel's duties towards the people it occupies are fulfilled and when there is evidence for the above. This should not be controversial and has been used in relation to Russia. Israel's leaders are currently wanted by the ICC for war crimes and Palestine has been determined to plausibly be in need of protection from genocide, indicating there is a plausible genocide taking place against them. What is expected of Israel in terms of its duties to comply with International law should not be lower than any other country. We should hold them to the same standard we hold other countries and the seriousness of its infraction and the overwhelming evidence for it and their blatant disregard of requests by the ICC would mandate that we take this action. It is our legal duty to prevent genocide and this may be one of the most effective ways to do this, as we have already seen has been effective in the case of the South African apartheid.

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

The UK government began this state of affairs by breaking up a piece of land with artificial borders. It must recognise that this two state solution has failed for 75yrs. It must acknowledge that a one state solution, just like the single country that is the UK or US, which is home to people from hundreds of nationalities, all existing religions and from all backgrounds, where they live side by side, with equal rights and identical freedoms and where they can expect equal application of the law to themselves as their neighbours, is a viable solution. If this can work and has been proven to work in so many countries in the world, why would we deny the Israelis and Palestinians the opportunity to experience this, just as they did when they lived in harmony before their land was brutally torn apart by third parties?

And why would we believe this would not work in this land, when it has worked in so many countries around the world? What is so different about the Palestinians or Israelis from human beings across the world that we would believe them to be incapable of this and not even consider it to be an option? The UK must let go of the 2 state solution being the only viable solution and must allow free discussion of other potential solutions without accusations of racism.

The UK government must stop engaging in anti-Palestinian racism, which includes targeting Palestinians and their advocates. It must stop proscribing and targeting groups who advocate for Palestine and individuals who support equal rights for Palestinian people and justice being brought to those guilty of war crimes. It must stop targeting those who condemn war crimes against Palestinians and who investigate and report on their struggles. It must allow criticism of Israel and the way it is conducting this “war” and criticism of those who are conducting, enabling or denying their crimes.

The UK government must adopt a definition of anti-Palestinian racism and must update the definition of antisemitism to the updated and less controversial Jerusalem declaration of anti-semitism. This will promote the safety of Jews, Palestinians and their advocates alike and will allow discussions to be had in good faith without inappropriate labelling with misguided labels in an effort, at times, to suppress legitimate criticisms. It will formally allow the criticism of a state accused of war crimes without being accused of anti-semitism. At the very least the UK government must formally reject the older and more controversial IHRA definition where it relates to criticisms of Israel.

The UK government must centre both Palestinian and Israeli voices who would call for peace in all discussions. A peace agreement is made between two parties and this can never be reached if one party is continually ignored and the other is continually validated. We must value the voices of both parties equally, however discussions with Palestinians and engagement with their communities appears to be largely absent with regards to this government.

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?

Change your aim. The aim of a ceasefire is a superficial aim at best and can never lead to lasting peace. I would argue the UK government is aware of this. The aim of the UK government should be to see Israeli and Palestinian people live together in peace with equal rights and

opportunities, for those guilty of genocide and crimes against humanity (in the Middle East and abroad) to be brought to justice and for Palestinians to be able to return to their homeland. Without justice, peace can never exist.

Recognise the injustices done to people in the region. Whilst it may not be possible for justice to be achieved for many, recognition of what they have suffered can make some headway in healing the generational trauma that is no doubt affecting and will continue to affect millions of people. Whilst there is always an eagerness to recognise the injustices inflicted on the people of Israel there is always a hesitation and, in many cases, blatant denial of the injustices inflicted on the people of Palestine, even in the face of overwhelming evidence. This must change. The Palestinian people and their struggles must be acknowledged, accepted and understood to allow the world to begin healing from the damaging effects of this genocide spanning $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century. The Palestinian struggle must be publicly validated and acknowledged by all.

Condemn all war crimes and publicly and forcefully seek to bring justice in the face of them. The most worrying thing for the future that this genocide has brought is that it has demonstrated a migration of red lines in war. This has been done by the denial and tacit approval (for example by calling neonates “terrorists” in the media) of war crimes conducted by Israel which have never been accepted before. This risks this way of conducting war, one which effectively amounts to genocide, becoming acceptable in society. This escalates the stakes in all future wars by moving or removing boundaries which leaders would usually hesitate to cross. This makes the future more unsafe for everyone. To begin to fix this, all war crimes conducted in this genocide must be verbalised, acknowledge, accepted and their perpetrators punished severely.

Just as healing after the Jewish holocaust involved atrocity denial being made a hate crime, the same should apply to the suffering of Palestinians. Nakba denial, apartheid denial and denial of the genocide of the Palestinians should be made a hate crime.

Recognise the Palestinians right to resist their occupiers and those conducting the genocide of their people. Just as the right of the Ukraine to resist their occupiers was recognised, the same should apply to Palestinians. Palestinians are just as human as those in the Ukraine and share the same rights in the eyes of the law. The international community, including the UK, must stop stripping the Palestinians of their inherent rights we give to all other human beings. We need to stop criminalising Palestinians for exercising the rights they are entitled to.

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