

HEALTH WORKERS **4**PALESTINE

UK healthcare and humanitarian workers call for immediate UK government action to end Israel's genocide and protect the Palestinian people

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*For the immediate attention of Prime Minister Keir Starmer, Foreign Secretary David Lammy,
and all UK parliamentarians,*

We, the undersigned, write to you as UK-based healthcare and humanitarian professionals who are horrified by the ongoing violence committed by Israel against the Palestinian people in Gaza, and throughout occupied Palestine, amounting to genocide.

In our respective professions we uphold a commitment to dignified care-giving and the sanctity of human life. These moral and political commitments demand that we act, not only to treat illness and injury, but to prevent harm and redress the underlying determinants of injury, trauma, and poor health.

To this end, we condemn the cultures of impunity and indifference, and pervasive anti-Palestinian racism, which have functioned to permit this violence and that have enabled atrocities and breaches of international law to escalate over several decades.

As we appeal to you, hospitals and clinics in Gaza continue to be bombed. Paramedics and their ambulances continue to be targeted in Gaza and the West Bank. Essential clinical

equipment has been repeatedly and meticulously destroyed by the Israeli military. Healthcare workers in Gaza and throughout occupied Palestine have been targeted, killed, injured, detained and tortured simply for providing healthcare.

This is not collateral damage - it is a calculated assault on healthcare itself, and on the future of the Palestinian people.

As of May 2025, more than 1400 Palestinian healthcare workers have been killed in Gaza. Humanitarian workers have also been subjected to extreme violence; 314 UN staff have been killed - a death toll unprecedented in the 79-year history of the United Nations. A further 47 Red Cross staff have been killed, along with at least 90 other humanitarian workers.

At least 54,084 Palestinians have been killed, of whom at least 16,854 are children. Research conducted by specialists based at the UK's leading public health university have found that the trauma-related death toll alone could be underestimated by at least 40%.

Despite growing and irrefutable evidence of widespread and systematic atrocities committed against the Palestinian people, the UK government - and many of the medical, allied health, and humanitarian institutions that are meant to represent us - have failed to act with urgency, or in accordance with their political, legal, and moral obligations.

After more than 600 days of escalating genocidal violence, we are appalled by the UK government's failure to act to protect the Palestinian people. Furthermore, we are horrified by the UK government's active and continued military, political and economic support to the Israeli regime. All of this despite the ICJ's January 2024 ruling that determined Israel is plausibly committing genocide, and the subsequent November 2024 announcement of ICC arrest warrants for leading Israeli politicians accused of war crimes.

Your failure to act decisively in the face of ongoing atrocities renders the UK government legally and morally complicit in each and every act of violence, manufactured deprivation, and targeted destruction that Israel continues to commit against the Palestinian people.

We join the thousands of healthcare and humanitarian workers across the UK who have spoken out against the imposition of the conditions of occupation, apartheid and genocide by the Israeli regime in Palestine.

We have exhausted every avenue for advocacy and political engagement only to be met in large part by silence, obfuscation, and inaction. Yet, we refuse to stand by as the UK government maintains its support for the Israeli regime, in clear disregard of its duties as enshrined in international law, which supposedly exists to protect us all.

The UK government must act now. By failing to do so, the legacy of this government will represent a continuation of the legacy of the British State in Palestine - that of collaboration and collusion in efforts to exterminate the Palestinian people dating back to the signing of the Balfour Declaration.

We demand that the UK government:

1. Immediately suspends all military and economic cooperation with Israel and imposes a complete arms embargo
2. Exerts all forms of political and diplomatic pressure to ensure an immediate and permanent ceasefire;
3. Affirms support for the existing humanitarian system - inclusive of UNRWA and Palestinian-led organisations - and lobbies for immediate, unrestricted, and independent humanitarian access;
4. Commits to financially and politically resource immediate and long-term humanitarian, health and development programmes, including reparative acts such as supporting Palestinian students to study in the UK, and treating Palestinian patients in UK healthcare facilities;
5. Explicitly commits to support Palestinian-led service provision, rebuilding and recovery efforts;
6. Supports and resources independent investigations into allegations of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and acts to hold perpetrators accountable;
7. Commits to ensure that all of the above actions are upheld until such a time as all Palestinian rights (including the right of return) are upheld, and Israel's conditions of occupation, apartheid, and genocide are brought to an end.

