



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB KC MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1A 2AA

9 June 2025

Dear Prime Minister,

We write to express our grave concern over the relentless violence against Palestinians throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and urge the United Kingdom to respond to Israel's widespread and systematic violations of international law. While the UK rightly continues to [emphasise aid access to Gaza](#), this narrow focus does not address broader systemic violations that require urgent political action - in addition to a humanitarian response.

We welcome your [decision](#) to sanction Israeli settlers and entities for their roles in serious human rights abuses against Palestinians in the West Bank on 20 May, 2025. While these actions are a necessary first step towards accountability for settler violence, they fall short of what is needed. The day after the announcement of the sanctions, [armed Israeli settlers - including sanctioned settler Neria Ben Pazi, founder of Neria's Farm - attacked the Palestinian village of Mughayir ad-Deir](#). The settlers 'moved in' to the community, mere metres from Palestinian homes, torched buildings and vehicles and assaulted residents. Despite being present and called to the scene the [Israeli military and police failed to intervene](#).

As the occupying power, Israel has a legal duty to protect Palestinians, yet it routinely fails to prevent or punish such attacks. More than inaction, [the state often enables this violence](#) through military orders, legal frameworks, and incitement by officials. [In nearly half the cases, Israeli forces accompanied or actively supported attackers](#). As a result, settler violence is attributable to Israel, triggering its obligations under international law to not only halt violations and prevent recurrence, and ensure accountability, but also provide reparations. Despite multiple UN resolutions and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) [Advisory Opinion](#) in July, 2024, Israel continues to appropriate Palestinian land and support at least 750,000 settlers in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem.

The entire population of the village of Mughayir ad-Deir has now fled. Their displacement constitutes forcible transfer - a grave breach of the [Fourth Geneva Convention](#) and a war crime under international humanitarian law. This was not an isolated incident: It is part of a widespread and systematic campaign of [coercive violence in the occupied West Bank](#), deliberately engineered to erase Palestinian presence and advance Israel's on-going



annexation of the occupied West Bank. These acts are not aberrations, but rather the result of an integrated strategy of domination and demographic engineering, aimed at creating irreversible facts on the ground. Following the forcible transfer of Mughayer ad-Deir, sanctioned settler, Elisha Yered [shared a celebratory post](#), demonstrating not only the deliberate and strategic intent behind forcible transfer, but also the impunity with which sanctioned individuals continue to act, undeterred. The strategy of "moving in" to the middle of a community has proven so successful that settlers are doing it in other places. The community of Khallet al-Dabea is now another case in point, and without urgent intervention, it will no doubt continue.

The escalation also coincides with [Israel's recent approval of plans](#) to establish 22 new settlements across the occupied West Bank, including the retroactive legalisation of previously unauthorised outposts. This move, sanctioned by the Israeli security cabinet, is part of a wider policy to entrench territorial control and obstruct the possibility of a future Palestinian state.

[In Gaza, the scale of civilian destruction and the intent expressed by Israeli officials to "cleanse" and "erase" Palestinian presence constitutes a serious and credible risk of genocide.](#) This view is supported by the ICJ which has [issued](#) three sets of binding provisional measures requiring Israel to prevent all acts of genocide and related prohibited acts. [Amnesty International](#) and [Human Rights Watch](#) have found that Israel's conduct in Gaza amounts to genocide or acts of genocide. While suspending trade negotiations with Israel and revisiting the 2030 Road Map signals a recognition that relations must be anchored in international law, these actions do not adequately confront the violence unfolding on the ground.

As a State Party to the [Genocide Convention](#) (1948), the [Geneva Conventions](#) (1949), and the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (1969), the UK has binding obligations under international law to:

- Prevent genocide, an obligation which was triggered on 26 January, 2024 when the ICJ ordered provisional measures. (South Africa's genocide case against Israel);
- Ensure respect for international humanitarian law, including the prohibitions on forcible transfer, annexation, and collective punishment of protected populations (Fourth Geneva Convention);
- Refrain from recognising, aiding, or assisting an illegal situation arising from serious breaches of peremptory norms of international law, including the denial of the Palestinian right to self-determination ([ICJ Advisory Opinion](#), July 2024);
- Avoid trade, funding, or cooperation that enables or legitimises these violations, in line with the duty of non-assistance and the obligation to ensure respect for international law (Geneva Conventions; [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#)).

Current UK policy does not meet these obligations. Continued diplomatic and economic transactions, and ties with Israeli institutions and settler organisations - amid mounting evidence of genocide and widespread war crimes - risks rendering the UK complicit under international law.

On 27 May, 2025, [800 lawyers](#) issued serious findings regarding Israel's actions, use of force and associated policies in Gaza and now the West Bank, concluding that "Serious violations



of international law are being committed and are further threatened by Israel in the oPt". Combined with the ICJ's ruling on Israel's breaches of international law, findings from authoritative UN bodies and international human rights organisations, and the testimonies of civil society organisations, these findings demonstrate the urgency of the situation. We therefore urge the Government to immediately take the following steps:

**1. Impose targeted sanctions**

Given the scale and gravity of Israel's violations - including acts of genocide or at the least, a serious risk of genocide, forcible transfer, and the annexation of occupied territory - the UK must now move beyond sanctioning individual settlers but sanction state officials, including ministers, and introduce sanctions in respect of the State of Israel. The UK is legally obliged to act against serious breaches of peremptory norms, including preventing genocide and ending systematic violations of international law.

**2. Ban trade with illegal settlements**

Implement a full ban on the import and sale of goods and services originating from Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Continued trade not only undermines international law but directly supports and legitimises the settlement enterprise. This is required under the UK's obligations not to aid or assist violations of international law, including those found by the ICJ and reaffirmed by the [UN General Assembly](#) on 18 September, 2024, which clearly state the illegality of settlements and the prohibition of forcible transfer under the Fourth Geneva Convention.

**3. Suspend the existing UK-Israel trade agreement - not just FTA negotiations**

The UK should immediately suspend the [UK-Israel Trade and Partnership Agreement](#). [The agreement explicitly includes respect for human rights as an "essential element,"](#) making it more than a political commitment - it is a binding legal condition. When this essential element is breached, as is the case with the serious violations currently being committed, the agreement itself provides the UK with the legal right to suspend or terminate its provisions, in whole or in part. Failure to act not only undermines the integrity of the agreement but also signals tolerance for grave breaches of international law.

Yours sincerely,

Rt Hon. Diane Abbott MP  
Shockat Adam MP  
Lord John Alderdice  
Paula Barker MP  
Órfhlaith Begley MP  
Apsana Begum MP  
Baroness Natalie Bennett of Manor Castle  
Siân Berry MP  
Kirsty Blackman MP  
Rt Hon. Baroness Tessa Blackstone  
Olivia Blake MP  
Baroness Christine Blower  
Richard Burgon MP  
Dawn Butler MP  
Ian Byrne MP

Rt Hon. Alistair Carmichael MP  
Rt Rev. Guli Francis-Dehqani, Lord Bishop of Chelmsford  
Ellie Chowns MP  
Rt Hon. Jeremy Corbyn MP  
Stella Creasy MP  
Pat Cullen MP  
Ann Davies MP  
Marsha de Cordova MP  
Carla Denyer MP  
Dave Doogan MP  
Lord Alf Dubs  
Neil Duncan-Jordan MP  
Colum Eastwood MP  
Sorcha Eastwood MP



Baroness Julie Elliott of Whitburn Bay  
Patricia Ferguson MP  
John Finucane MP  
Stephen Flynn MP  
Mary Foy MP  
Andrew George MP  
Stephen Gethins MP  
Rt Rev. Rachel Treweek, Lord Bishop of  
Gloucester  
Baroness Shaista Gohir OBE  
Rt Hon. Lord Peter Hain  
Chris Hazzard MP  
Lord John Hendy KC  
Chris Hinchcliff MP  
Dáire Hughes MP  
Adnan Hussain MP  
Imran Hussain MP  
Baroness Meral Hussein-Ece  
Baroness Barbara Janke  
Kim Johnson MP  
Baroness Jenny Jones of Moulsecoomb  
Baroness Helena Kennedy of The Shaws LT  
KC  
Afzal Khan MP  
Ayoub Khan MP  
Rt Hon. Lord John Kilclooney  
Ben Lake MP  
Peter Lamb MP  
Ian Lavery MP  
Chris Law MP  
Graham Leadbitter MP  
Brian Leishman MP  
Clive Lewis MP  
Baroness Ruth Lister of Burtersett  
Seamus Logan MP  
Angus MacDonald MP  
Cathal Mallaghan MP  
Rt Hon. Kit Malthouse MP  
Rachael Maskell MP  
Paul Maskey MP  
Andy McDonald MP  
Rt Hon. John McDonnell MP  
Llinos Medi MP  
Abtisam Mohamed MP  
Iqbal Mohamed MP  
Layla Moran MP  
Grahame Morris MP  
Tom Morrison MP  
Rt Hon. Baroness Lindsay Northover  
Lord Jonny Oates  
Brendan O'Hara MP  
Dr Simon Opher MP  
Kate Osamor MP  
Yasmin Qureshi MP  
Bell Ribeiro-Addy MP

Rt Hon. Liz Saville Roberts MP  
Baroness Shas Sheehan  
Lord Indarjit Singh of Wimbledon CBE  
Andy Slaughter MP  
Cat Smith MP  
Rt Rev. Christopher Chessun, Lord Bishop of  
Southwark  
Zarah Sultana MP  
Jon Trickett MP  
Rt Hon. Valerie Vaz MP  
Rt Hon. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi  
Nadia Whittome MP  
Pete Wishart MP  
Steve Witherden MP  
Lord Stewart Wood of Anfield