



# Political Affairs Digest

A daily summary of political events affecting the Jewish Community

## Contents

Home Affairs

Israel

Other Relevant Information

Relevant Legislation

Consultations

Back issues

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## Home Affairs

### General Election

The deadline to register to vote in the General Election is

Tuesday 18 June.

[Click here to register](#)

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The deadline to apply for a postal vote is

Wednesday 19 June.

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The deadline to apply for a proxy vote is

Wednesday 26 June.

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to find out which candidates  
will be contesting the election in your area.

## General Election Manifestos

### Conservative

<https://manifesto.conservatives.com/>

### Labour

<https://labour.org.uk/change/>

### Liberal Democrat

<https://www.libdems.org.uk/manifesto>

### Green

<https://greenparty.org.uk/about/our-manifesto/>

### Reform UK

<https://www.reformparty.uk/our-contract-contents>

## Welsh Senedd Debate

### Equality and Social Justice Committee Report, 'Actions, not words: towards an anti-racist Wales by 2030'

**213 Jenny Rathbone (Labour):** ... Today virtually every community in Wales is enriched by people from different parts of the world, a fact that we should all celebrate. However, racism is an all-too-familiar part of the day-to-day lived experience of far too many of our citizens. All the evidence we took confirms there is widespread support for the ambitious aim of an anti-racist Wales by 2030. We agree wholeheartedly with the closing sentences of the Welsh Government's guide to the 'Anti-racist Wales Action Plan': 'Without action nothing changes. Indeed, now we need action, not words.' ...

**216** Our report confines itself to three strategic areas—leadership, collaboration and monitoring—and three specific operational challenges, in health, education and criminal justice. ...

**217** On leadership, the action plan articulates the Welsh Government's vision for an anti-racist society. Yet too many organisations told us they did not understand how the plan would be implemented, and were unclear about who was responsible for what actions under the plan. ...

**224** ... With over half our doctors and nurses being born in another country, it really is unacceptable that racism is far too often manifested in the day-to-day operations of public services. The Royal College of Nursing referred to its 2019 employment survey, where nearly half of Asian respondents, and roughly the same number of black respondents, had experienced bullying from colleagues, in comparison to only 38 per cent of white respondents ... And Race Council Cymru told us that many people from ethnic minority backgrounds don't have confidence that education settings have effective policies to prevent racist bullying or micro-aggressions, and that these are dealt with effectively when they do occur. Many education institutions in Wales do not have anti-racism policies or escalation mechanisms. ...

**228 Altaf Hussain (Conservative):** ... I want to make it clear at the outset that I don't believe that Wales is a racist nation. We are one of the most tolerant nations on the planet, but racism does, sadly, still exist. It is not the overt kind that is prevalent in our nation; it is the more covert structural racism. I say 'structural racism' because I agree with Reni Eddo-Lodge. She chooses the term 'structural' rather than 'institutional' racism, because she thinks it is built into a space much broader than in our more traditional institutions. Structural racism is impenetrable and goes unnoticed. It is not just about personal

prejudice, but collectively affects our bias. It is the kind of racism that has the power to drastically impact people's life chances. We are the most racially tolerant country in the English-speaking world and only slightly behind Sweden and Brazil in terms of tolerance. But when we think that true racism only exists in the hearts of evil people, when we think that racism is about moral values, we ignore the fact that it is really about the survival of the systems of power. The hidden nature of structural racism means it is often difficult to tackle.

The Welsh Government's anti-racist action plan has made it mandatory to teach black, Asian and minority ethnic histories and experiences as part of Welsh history lessons. Yet only a tiny percentage of teachers are from BAME backgrounds. ... How can we possibly hope to put an end to racism, discrimination and, ultimately, hate crime via education and celebrations of diversity if our teachers are not representative? But it goes deeper than that. Witnesses told the Equality and Social Justice Committee that schools and educators appear oblivious to their obligations to work towards an anti-racist Wales. ...

**231 Sioned Williams (Plaid Cymru):** Black, Asian and minority ethnic people in Wales face serious and unacceptable challenges and disadvantage. And for too long, they have been hearing that there will be a change in this regard, through action plans and statements from the Welsh Government. But they told us very clearly that they don't feel or see that change is happening. ...

**236** As a committee, we saw in particular the need to focus firmly on and drive robust change in the areas of education, health and criminal justice. ...

**237** ... people from ethnic minority backgrounds are over-represented at all levels of the criminal justice system in Wales. Based on the most recent statistics that we have, in 2021, 51 out of every 10,000 black people in Wales were in prison, compared to 14 white people, and more black people were also under the care of the probation services. The length of sentences is also longer for black people than white defendants. ...

**244 Jane Dodds (Liberal Democrat):** ... I'd like to also acknowledge the harsh reality that racial inequality persists here in Wales. Despite pockets of progress, people from ethnic minority backgrounds continue to face disparities in housing, education, employment, healthcare and, as we've heard, in the criminal justice system. ...

**245** Complacency remains the enemy of progress and the committee's report highlights the formidable challenges that the Welsh Government needs to surmount when it comes to decisive leadership, active collaboration and detailed monitoring. It is therefore disheartening to read the Welsh Government's response to the committee's recommendations, which seemingly seeks to downplay its leadership responsibilities in its willingness to accept our recommendations either in part or principle without following through on key actions. ...

**247** As the children's commissioner highlighted in their report last November, there is an urgent need for clarity on how schools should handle racist incidents, and a concerning lack of consistency across local authorities in logging and reporting incidents. The report further paints a picture of schools as hostile environments where bullying is rife, with many ethnic minorities lacking confidence in the effectiveness of policies to prevent racist bullying and micro-aggressions. This reality is totally unacceptable and it undermines the very principles of an inclusive and equitable education system. ...

**264 Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice (Lesley Griffiths):** ... Our 2022-23 action plan annual report shows that, whilst the impact of the plan may not yet be as apparent in the lived experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic people as we would want, significant structural foundations have been laid for long-term change, and tangible progress has been achieved. The action plan is significantly different from previous ones, both in its development and its implementation. It was co-produced with black, Asian and minority ethnic people and right at the heart of it is the governance structure that is going to be the external accountability group. That's co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary and

by Professor Emmanuel Ogbonna, and comprises 11 black and minority ethnic diversity representatives and eight race experts. This focus on lived experience makes the plan stronger, I think, than any previous plans to tackle racial inequality. ...

266 A refreshed reiteration of the 'Anti-racist Wales Action Plan' is under way, covering 2024-26. It will refine existing goals and actions to strengthen implementation and measure impact, and it signals the bold vision of achieving an anti-racist Wales by 2030, with goals and actions spanning the whole of Government. ...

269 Wales is the first country in the UK to make the teaching of black, Asian and minority ethnic histories mandatory in the Curriculum for Wales. It's important for our educational practitioners and young people to understand that these histories belong to us all. The Welsh Government is also fully considering the Children's Commissioner for Wales's recommendations in her spotlight report on children's experiences of racism in secondary schools. ...

Our purpose is clear: to make meaningful and measurable changes to the lives of black, Asian and minority ethnic people by tackling racism; in fact, to all communities that experience racism and prejudice ...

278 I think it's really important that we work collaboratively. ... the Welsh Government can't do this on their own. And I hope I've described and explained the work that we're doing is not just across Government, it's with all our public bodies. ... I'm committed to tackling systemic and cultural racism in all forms as a priority. ...

**281 Jenny Rathbone:** ... Altaf Hussain talks about structural racism, which is impenetrable and goes unnoticed. Yes, we're one of the most tolerant countries in the western world, and only marginally behind Sweden, but that doesn't mean to say we haven't got to work even harder to achieve the anti-racist Wales that the plan foresees, because not to do so is to not have the full support of all the talent that is in Wales. It impacts on our economy, on our education and every other aspect of our cohesion in our communities, so this is a really significant issue for all of us.

282 I think Altaf highlights a really serious issue, which is the fact that only 0.2 per cent of our teachers are black, because, realistically, how can we address racism that children have brought into the schools, learnt from the adults in their lives? No child is born racist. In fact, they are completely blind to difference of any sort when they're two, three, four or five, but, later on, they start to hear and adopt the attitudes of other people in their lives, and it's only in school that we can really address this. So, it's absolutely vital, particularly when so many teachers as a profession lack the confidence to call out racism in the classroom ...

291 I just want to highlight recommendation 10, which is around the need to establish an observatory to pull together all the research ...

In closing, I want to emphasise the title of our report, which is 'Action, not words'. There's nothing inevitable about progress. It requires hard work, bravery and determination. We all support the aim. We absolutely all support the aim, across all parties. But we need the Welsh Government to plot the route we are due to travel. If we are to achieve this by 2030, which is only less than six years away, then each of us will need to be active, not passive, in this endeavour.

**To read the full transcript see**

<https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/13948#C597787>

*The Equality and Social Justice Committee report referred to above can be read at*  
<https://senedd.wales/media/klicd313/cr-ld16408-e.pdf>

*The Welsh Government response to the report, referred to above, can be read at*  
<https://senedd.wales/media/nfbjahsv/gen-ld16515-e.pdf>

*The Anti-racist Wales Action Plan, referred to above, can be read at*  
[https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/anti-racist-wales-action-plan\\_0.pdf](https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-06/anti-racist-wales-action-plan_0.pdf)

The annual report referred to above can be read at

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-11/anti-racist-wales-action-plan-annual-report-2022-to-2023.pdf>

The Children's Commissioner for Wales report referred to above can be read at

[https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/CCfW-Spotlight-Report-%E2%80%93-Racism-in-Schools\\_231123.pdf](https://www.childcomwales.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/CCfW-Spotlight-Report-%E2%80%93-Racism-in-Schools_231123.pdf)

## Welsh Senedd Oral Answer

### Right to Protest

**Heledd Fychan (Plaid Cymru):** Trefnydd, I'd like to request a statement from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice outlining the discussions that have taken place with South Wales Police following the arrest last week of 19 pro-Palestine activists in less than 48 hours. An extensive list of signatories have signed a statement with calls directed at South Wales Police, but also calling on the political establishment to respect the right to protest. One of those arrested in Swansea was a 12-year-old Palestinian child, and many others here in Cardiff are students. The police approach is obviously directed by the cruel UK legislation regarding protests, but I'd like to know the Welsh Government's position on this, and how we ensure that people are able to protest and show support when that is very much needed.

**Jane Hutt:** ... you raise a really important question. Obviously, as a Welsh Government, we have stood up and spoken for and really embraced the right to protest. The right to protest, of course, has been threatened and undermined by UK Government legislation, which, indeed, we resisted. And as you'll recall, when I was in the role of Minister for Social Justice, we addressed those points and the impact it would have on our democratic—. This is about our democratic right to protest, but also, in relation to specific incidents, and you've given an example today, I will ask the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice to look into these particular circumstances and situations. And perhaps just to say that we recognise that, throughout not just Wales but across the UK, there are these protests, there's peaceful coming together of people, raising the issue of what is happening in the middle east, and to recognise how important this is to the people who are affected. Because, of course, it's community cohesion and recognising that this is an area where we want to engage with the communities, all the communities that are affected.

<https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/13947#C597016>

## Welsh Senedd Written Answer

### Religion, Values and Ethics Specialist Teachers

**Darren Millar (Conservative) [WQ93109]** What action is the Welsh Government taking to ensure that there are adequate number of religion, values and ethics specialist teachers to support the delivery of the new curriculum?

**The Cabinet Secretary for Education:** The Welsh Government offers a range of incentives to attract applicants into initial teacher education (ITE) in Wales. These schemes are targeted at those areas and subjects where recruitment is most challenging; priority subjects, the Welsh medium sector and attracting more entrants from ethnic minorities. At present Religious Education is not a subject area where the statistics have indicated there was a need to incentivise to recruit student teachers.

We review the Priority Subject Incentives scheme annually and amend the scheme, including the subjects classified as 'priority', to meet our ITE and workforce requirements. If the data available shows there is a need to attract more Religious Education (RE) students into Initial Teacher Education, we will consider this alongside existing priorities.

The Welsh Government is working in partnership with the Wales Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (WASACRE) and religious education practitioners across Wales to develop [a suite of modules](#) to support practitioners with the changes to religion, values and ethics (RVE) (formerly Religious Education), within the Curriculum for Wales.

We are also continuing to work with WASACRE and other partners to explore the opportunities available to ensure that there are sufficient numbers of suitably qualified RE and RVE teachers available to deliver the Curriculum for Wales.

<https://record.senedd.wales/WrittenQuestion/93109>

## Welsh Government

### School attendance and religious festivals guidance 2024

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2024-06/240611-School-Attendance-and-Religious-Observance-Guidance-2024.pdf>

TOP

## Israel

**See also the Welsh Senedd oral answer “Right to Protest” that is included in the Home Affairs section above, and “Intolerance, Hate Speech Often Very Cause of Wars, Conflicts ...” that is included in the Other Relevant Information section below.**

## Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

**David Cameron** A widening of the conflict in Gaza is in nobody's interest. Meeting President @Isaac\_Herzog we agreed the current deal offers the best path to a ceasefire. I also urged against escalation on the northern border with Lebanon. We must explore all options to achieve lasting peace. [plus photo]

[https://x.com/David\\_Cameron/status/1801639144969363840](https://x.com/David_Cameron/status/1801639144969363840)

## Department for Business and Trade

### Export control licensing data: 31 May 2024

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/export-control-licensing-management-information-for-israel/export-control-licensing-data-31-may-2024>

## Scottish Parliament Motions

**Ross Greer (Green) [S6M-13338] Calling for UK Recognition of Palestinian Statehood** – That the Parliament calls on the UK Government to join Ireland, Spain,

Norway and, it understands, 143 other United Nations member states in recognising Palestinian statehood.

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-13338>

**Jamie Green (Conservative) [S6M-13522.1] "Show Israel the Red Card" Campaign - Amendment** – As an amendment to motion S6M-13522 in the name of Ross Greer ("Show Israel the Red Card" Campaign), leave out from "welcomes" to end and insert "considers that sport, like music, art and culture, can be used to build bridges between communities, nations and those of differing views; does not believe that punishing athletes is the way to disagree with the governments of the countries that they represent; believes that football should not be the home of exclusion based on the nationality, race, religion or ethnicity of the participants, and further believes that, despite holding views of concern about the ongoing nature of the conflict in the Middle East, on which there is much to agree, sport is not the place for such political argument or division, given what it sees as its ability to bring people together as history often well proves."

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-13522-1>

*The Motion to which the above is an amendment is:*

**Ross Greer (Green) [S6M-13522] "Show Israel the Red Card" Campaign** – *That the Parliament welcomes the "Show Israel the Red Card" campaign, which has the aim of drawing attention to what it considers to be the injustice of allowing Israeli athletes to participate in international sporting events, while Palestinians are often unable to participate, it understands, due to the Israeli occupation and what groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have referred to as the system of apartheid enforced on Palestinians by the state of Israel; congratulates protesters who gathered outside Hampden Park on 31 May 2024 to object to Israel's continued participation in international football events, despite what it believes is an ongoing genocidal assault on Gaza; notes that the efforts of campaigners resulted in the match between Israel and Scotland being played behind closed doors and a 45-minute delay to kick-off; further notes with concern reports that, since 7 October 2023, at least 265 Palestinian sportspeople have been killed in Israeli attacks on Gaza and the West Bank, with dozens more still missing; believes that Israel is in violation of the Olympic Charter, which states that "every individual must have access to the practice of sport, without discrimination of any kind in respect of internationally recognised human rights", and calls, therefore, on the relevant international bodies to immediately suspend Israel from all major sporting events.*

<https://www.parliament.scot/chamber-and-committees/votes-and-motions/S6M-13522>

## Welsh Senedd Research

**Israel and Gaza at the Senedd: the story so far**

<https://research.senedd.wales/research-articles/israel-and-gaza-at-the-senedd-the-story-so-far/>

## Court of Justice of the European Union

**Stateless persons of Palestinian origin registered with UNRWA should, in principle, be granted refugee status if UNRWA's protection or assistance is considered to have ceased**

... In July 2018, a mother and her minor daughter, both stateless persons of Palestinian origin, left the city of Gaza and illegally entered Bulgaria after having transited through Egypt, Türkiye and Greece. Their first application for international protection before the

Bulgarian authorities was definitively rejected on the ground that they had not demonstrated that they had left the Gaza Strip for fear they might be persecuted. They then submitted a second application ... by asserting their registration with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). They claim refugee status following the de facto cessation of UNRWA's protection in their respect. The subsequent application was also rejected on the ground that the interested parties had renounced UNRWA's assistance by voluntarily leaving its area of operations. The Bulgarian court ... asks the Court of Justice to interpret the Procedures Directive ... [and] Qualifications Directive. According to the latter, persons registered with UNRWA are, in principle, excluded from refugee status in the European Union. However, when UNRWA's protection or assistance has ceased for any reason, those persons shall automatically be entitled to refugee status. The Court is called upon to clarify at what point UNRWA's assistance or protection must be regarded to have ceased. ...

... the Court observes that, if the Bulgarian court were to conclude that, having regard to the general conditions of life prevailing in the Gaza Strip at the time of its ruling, UNRWA's protection or assistance in that sector of its area of operations must be considered as having ceased vis-à-vis the two applicants concerned, the latter should be automatically granted refugee status. However, that status must be refused to them if they fall within one of the other grounds for exclusion provided for by the Qualification Directive.

UNRWA's protection or assistance must, in particular be considered to have ceased in respect of the applicant when that body finds itself unable, for whatever reason, to ensure dignified living conditions or minimum security conditions to any stateless person of Palestinian origin, staying in the sector of UNRWA's area of operations, in which the applicant had his or her habitual residence.

The Court notes in this regard that both the living conditions in the Gaza Strip and UNRWA's capacity to fulfil its mission have experienced an unprecedented deterioration due to the consequences of the events of 7 October 2023. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/upload/docs/application/pdf/2024-06/cp240100en.pdf>

**To read the full judgement see**

<https://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?jsessionid=46D9442C7094B1E04267E93EDAEB13B1?text=&docid=287065&pageIndex=0&doclang=EN&mode=req&dir=&cc=first&part=1&cid=3301921>

*The Procedures Directive referred to above can be read at*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2013/32/oj>

*The Qualifications Directive referred to above can be read at*

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2011/95/oj>

## United Nations

### **Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza Can Only Be Solved through 'a Political Solution', Based on two States, Secretary-General Tells Jordan Conference**

... It is now eight months since the horrific Hamas terror attacks of 7 October and the abduction of Israeli men, women and children to Gaza. But eight months of relentless suffering for Palestinian civilians in Gaza, the speed and scale of the carnage and killing in Gaza is beyond anything in my years as Secretary-General.

At least 1.7 million people — 75 per cent of Gaza's population — have been displaced many times over by Israel military attacks.

Nowhere is safe. Conditions are deplorable. The public health situation is beyond crisis levels. Gaza's hospitals lie in ruins. Medical supplies and fuel are scarce or non-existent.



More than 1 million Palestinians in Gaza do not have enough clean drinking water and face desperate levels of hunger. Over 50,000 children require treatment for acute malnutrition. And despite the ocean of needs, at least half of all humanitarian aid missions are denied access, impeded or cancelled due to operational or security reasons.

On top of all this, since the attack on the Rafah border crossing one month ago, the flow of critical humanitarian assistance to the people of Gaza — which was already woefully inadequate — has plummeted by two thirds.

In the face of this calamity, the world has tried its best to save lives. ...

Our Palestinian humanitarian colleagues, in particular, are working against enormous obstacles and near impossible conditions.

Imagine their lives and circumstances. Showing up for work when their homes are destroyed and their loved ones killed. Putting themselves in humanitarian convoys, even when they have been fired upon. ...

And the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) is the backbone of this humanitarian response, and it has suffered intolerably alongside the people it supports. ...

The horror must stop. It is high time for a ceasefire along with the unconditional release of hostages.

I welcome the peace initiative recently outlined by United States President Joseph R. Biden and urge all parties to seize this opportunity and come to an agreement. And I call on all parties to respect their obligations under international humanitarian law. This includes facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid both into and inside Gaza, as they have committed.

All available routes into Gaza must be operational. And the land routes are absolutely crucial. ...

The security of UNRWA and our humanitarian partners is vital to moving life-saving aid over the border and where it needs to go within Gaza.

Deliveries require safe routes and effective deconfliction mechanisms to ensure their security. They require unimpeded access for security and communications equipment, commensurate with the risks of working in a war zone. They require immediate efforts to clear routes inside Gaza, which are littered with mines and unexploded ordnance.

Civilians must be allowed to seek safety. And civilians and the infrastructure they rely on must never be militarized or targeted.

I also call for the world to stand united to safeguard UNRWA in the face of outrageous and relentless attacks.

UNRWA's role will remain critical not only during the conflict, but afterwards. ...

Only UNRWA has the capacity, skills and networks needed to support the Palestinian people to face the immense challenge on health, on education and so much more.

Ultimately, the solution to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza is political. The only way forward is through a political solution that opens a path to sustained peace, based on two States, Palestine and Israel, living side by side in peace and security, on the basis of the pre-1967 lines and the relevant United Nations resolutions, previous agreements and international law, with Jerusalem as capital of both States.

Let us keep working to make that a reality — as we work to answer today's call to action for Palestinians in Gaza in such profound and immediate need.

**To read the full statement see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sgsm22264.doc.htm>

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**Children and armed conflict: Report of the Secretary-General**

*pp13-17: Israel and the State of Palestine*

<https://undocs.org/en/S/2024/384>

## UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

### **Israeli authorities, Palestinian armed groups are responsible for war crimes, other grave violations of international law, UN Inquiry finds**

Israeli authorities are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during the military operations and attacks in Gaza since 7 October 2023, the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel, said in a new report ... The Commission also found that Palestinian armed groups are responsible for war crimes committed in Israel.

The Commission's report – the UN's first in-depth investigation of the events that took place on and since 7 October 2023 – is based on interviews with victims and witnesses conducted remotely and during a mission to Türkiye and Egypt, thousands of open-source items verified through advanced forensic analysis, hundreds of submissions, satellite imagery and forensic medical reports. Israel obstructed the Commission's investigations and prevented its access to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

"It is imperative that all those who have committed crimes be held accountable," said Navi Pillay, Chair of the Commission. "The only way to stop the recurring cycles of violence, including aggression and retribution by both sides, is to ensure strict adherence to international law."

"Israel must immediately stop its military operations and attacks in Gaza, including the assault on Rafah, which has cost the lives of hundreds of civilians and again displaced hundreds of thousands of people to unsafe locations without basic services and humanitarian assistance," Pillay said. " Hamas and Palestinian armed groups must immediately cease rocket attacks and release all hostages. The taking of hostages constitutes a war crime."

In relation to Israeli military operations and attacks in Gaza, the Commission found that Israeli authorities are responsible for the war crimes of starvation as a method of warfare, murder or wilful killing, intentionally directing attacks against civilians and civilian objects, forcible transfer, sexual violence, torture and inhuman or cruel treatment, arbitrary detention and outrages upon personal dignity.

The Commission found that the crimes against humanity of extermination, gender persecution targeting Palestinian men and boys, murder, forcible transfer, and torture and inhuman and cruel treatment were also committed.

The immense numbers of civilian casualties in Gaza and widespread destruction of civilian objects and infrastructure were the inevitable result of a strategy undertaken with intent to cause maximum damage, disregarding the principles of distinction, proportionality and adequate precautions. The intentional use of heavy weapons with large destructive capacity in densely populated areas constitutes an intentional and direct attack on the civilian population.

The report found that statements made by Israeli officials – including those reflecting the policy of inflicting widespread destruction and killing large numbers of civilians – amounted to incitement and may constitute other serious international crimes. Direct and public incitement to genocide is a crime under international law whenever perpetrated, even by persons with no direct authority for the conduct of the hostilities. Incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence is a serious violation of international human rights law and may amount to an international crime.

Although Israel issued hundreds of evacuation orders to people in north Gaza and other locations, the Commission found that they were at times insufficient, unclear and conflicting, and did not provide adequate time for safe evacuations. Furthermore, the evacuation routes and the areas designated as safe were consistently attacked by Israeli forces. All of this, the Commission determined, amounted to forcible transfer.

The Commission determined that Israel's imposed a "total siege" which amounts to collective punishment against the civilian population. Israeli authorities have weaponized

the siege and used the provision of life-sustaining necessities, including by severing water, food, electricity, fuel and humanitarian assistance, for strategic and political gains. The siege has disproportionately impacted pregnant women and persons with disabilities, with serious harm inflicted on children leading to preventable child deaths from starvation including newborns.

The report found that specific forms of sexual and gender-based violence constitute part of Israeli Security Forces' operating procedures. It made the finding due to the frequency, prevalence and severity of the violations, which include public stripping and nudity intended to humiliate the community at large and accentuate the subordination of an occupied people.

In the West Bank, the Commission found that Israeli forces committed acts of sexual violence, torture and inhuman or cruel treatment and outrages upon personal dignity, all of which are war crimes. Furthermore, the Commission found that the government of Israel and Israeli forces permitted, fostered and instigated a campaign of settler violence against Palestinian communities in the West Bank.

In relation to the attack of 7 October in Israel, the report found that the military wing of Hamas and six other Palestinian armed groups, are responsible for the war crimes of intentionally directing attacks against civilians, murder or wilful killing, torture, inhuman or cruel treatment, destroying or seizing the property of an adversary, outrages upon personal dignity, and taking hostages, including children.

The indiscriminate firing of thousands of projectiles towards Israeli towns and cities resulting in death and injury of civilians are also violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Members of Palestinian armed groups, in some instances aided by Palestinians in civilian clothing, deliberately killed, injured, tortured, took hostages, including children, and committed sexual and gender-based violence against civilians and against members of the Israeli Security Forces, some of whom were *hors de combat* and should not have been targeted.

The Commission identified patterns indicative of sexual violence and concluded that these were not isolated incidents but perpetrated in similar ways in several locations primarily against Israeli women.

In its recommendations, the report calls on the Government of Israel to immediately implement a ceasefire, end the siege of Gaza, ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and cease the targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure. The Commission calls on Israel to comply fully with its legal obligations set forth in the International Court of Justice orders on provisional measures issued on 26 January 2024, 28 March 2024 and 24 May 2024 and, in particular, allow the Commission access to Gaza to conduct investigations. It also recommended that all State Parties to the Rome Statute cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court.

The report calls on the Government of the State of Palestine and the de-facto authorities in Gaza to immediately cease all rocket attacks on Israel, unconditionally release all hostages, and thoroughly and impartially investigate violations and prosecute those responsible for crimes, including those committed on and since 7 October by members of Palestinian non-State armed groups in Israel. ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/israeli-authorities-palestinian-armed-groups-are-responsible-war-crimes>

**Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (A/HRC/56/26)**

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session56/a-hrc-56-26-a-uv.docx>

**Detailed findings on attacks carried out on and after 7 October 2023 in Israel**  
(A/HRC/56/CRP.3)

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session56/a-hrc-56-crp-3.pdf>

**Detailed findings on the military operations and attacks carried out in the Occupied Palestinian Territory from 7 October to 31 December 2023** (A/HRC/56/CRP.4)

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session56/a-hrc-56-crp-4.pdf>

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**UN experts condemn outrageous disregard for Palestinian civilians during Israel's military operation in Nuseirat**

UN human rights experts ... strongly condemned the umpteenth massacre by Israeli forces in Gaza during a hostage rescue operation in Nuseirat Refugee Camp, which killed at least 274 Palestinians, including 64 children and 57 women, and injured nearly 700.

On 8 June, Israeli Occupation Forces – allegedly assisted by foreign soldiers – entered Nuseirat disguised as displaced persons and aid workers in a humanitarian truck. They violently raided the area, assaulting residents with intense ground and air attacks that spread terror, death and despair.

“According to survivors, the streets of Nuseirat were filled with bodies of dead and injured people, including children and women, lying in pools of blood. Walls were covered in body parts scattered by multiple explosions and bombed houses,” the experts said.

With Gaza's health sector decimated, the injured taken to hospitals had to wait for medical treatment on the floors, they said.

“While we are relieved by the safe return of four Israeli hostages captured by Palestinian armed groups eight months ago, Israel's attack on the Nuseirat camp is obnoxious in its excessive violence and devastating impact,” the experts said.

They particularly condemned Israeli forces for treacherously hiding in a humanitarian aid truck coming from the US-built pier, which was intended to facilitate humanitarian assistance. “Acquiring civilian disguise to conduct a military operation constitutes perfidy, which is strictly prohibited under international humanitarian law and tantamount to a war crime,” the experts said.

“These tactics put aid workers and the delivery of much needed humanitarian aid at even greater risk and expose an unprecedented level of savagery in Israeli military actions,” they said.

The World Food Program has already announced the pause of its operations from the pier due to “security concerns.”

“The dramatically high death toll among Palestinians affected by the rescue operation confirms Israel's blatant disregard for Palestinian life,” the experts said. “Under international law, all civilian life must be equally valued and protected and no life is worth more than another.”

The experts noted that Israel had an opportunity to free the hostages without further bloodshed eight months ago, when the first ceasefire deal was presented. Instead, Israel has systematically rejected ceasefire proposals, preferring to continue its assault on Gaza, which has even taken the lives of Israeli hostages. All the while, Israel has claimed to be engaging in military operations to save them,” they said. “Using the pretext of seeking to rescue hostages to justify excessive use of force exposes Israel's criminal actions, including through humanitarian camouflage, and tells us they have reached a whole new level,” the experts said.

“The military operation in Nuseirat stands out as one of the most heinous acts in Israel's destructive assault against the Palestinian people since 7 October, which has killed over

36,000 Palestinians, injured over 80,000 and displaced and starved 2 million people in Gaza, while violence against Palestinians in the West Bank and east Jerusalem also continues unabated,” they said.

The experts noted that the UN Security Council Resolution 2735 is a way out of the horror, reiterating their call for an arms embargo against Israel to end the violence against Palestinians by Israeli forces and settlers.

“While the hour is already late, we hope this Resolution will pave the way for durable peace for the Palestinian people and freedom for hostages being held by Palestinian armed groups and for the thousands of Palestinian hostages arbitrarily detained by Israel,” they said.

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/06/un-experts-condemn-outrageous-disregard-palestinian-civilians-during-israels>

*UNSCR 2735, referred to above, can be read at*  
[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2735\(2024\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2735(2024))

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### **Call for Action: Urgent Humanitarian Response for Gaza: “Overcoming challenges to the delivery of Humanitarian assistance and the protection of civilians in Gaza” – Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights Nada Al Nashif**

... We have raised concerns, based on our monitoring, regarding:

1. The conduct of hostilities, including apparent patterns of Israeli strikes that suggest that the IDF may have systematically violated the basic IHL principles of military necessity, distinction, proportionality, and precautions in attack during its attacks in Gaza since 7 October 2023, with direct negative impact on protection of civilians. When committed intentionally, such violations may amount to war crimes, as well as possibly other atrocity crimes.
2. Practices of mass, arbitrary detentions, typically following the separation of families based on age and sex. Detainees are often held in secret, incommunicado detention and subjected to inhuman conditions in contravention of minimum international detention standards.
3. The blockade and continuing forms of siege imposed on Gaza, which amount to collective punishment and, in light of the means and methods by which the conflict is being conducted, may also constitute the use of starvation as a method of war.

Meanwhile, in our capacity as Protection Cluster Lead Agency, we are observing the cascading effects of these violations, compounded by ongoing impediments to meaningful humanitarian access. ...

Our protection partners report how:

- With each displacement, family structures are fragmenting, with people being separated from their loved ones, and from the social structures they rely on for safety and survival.
- Older people, people with chronic diseases, and persons with disabilities are particularly affected during this displacement. ...
- We note with concern the reported rise in gender-based violence ...
- At least 17,000 children are unaccompanied or separated from their families, traveling alone, crossing checkpoints, unable to access supplies or services, and at risk of starvation, abuse, and exploitation.
- Mine Action partners warn that the widespread presence of Explosive Ordnance is causing significant hindrance to humanitarian efforts, while posing acute risks to the population ...
- We call to mind the specific risks faced by men and boys, including detention.

In order to address and mitigate these compounded protection risks:

- We call on member states to shift their focus to protection of civilians.
- There is a need for specialized protection agencies to increase their presence on the ground and scale up protection operations.
- Ensure that we do not lose sight of groups and individuals who are at very high risk. ...
- and above all, ensure meaningful access across all of Gaza. ...

**To read the full statement see**

<https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/06/call-action-urgent-humanitarian-response-gaza>

## World Health Organisation

### **WHO Director-General's opening remarks at the media briefing – 12 June 2024**

... WHO welcomes the UN Security Council resolution adopted on Monday, which calls for a full and immediate ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages, a permanent end to hostilities, and the reconstruction of Gaza.

We urge all parties to take steps to implement the resolution immediately, and bring a permanent end to the suffering of millions of people. ...

A significant proportion of Gaza's population is now facing catastrophic hunger and famine-like conditions.

Despite reports of increased delivery of food, there is currently no evidence that those who need it most are receiving sufficient quantity and quality of food.

WHO and our partners have scaled up nutrition services.

Over 8,000 children under 5 years old have been diagnosed and treated for acute malnutrition, including 1,600 children with severe acute malnutrition.

However, due to insecurity and lack of access, only two stabilization centres for severely malnourished patients can operate.

Our inability to provide health services safely, combined with the lack of clean water and sanitation, significantly increase the risks for malnourished children.

There have already been 32 deaths attributed to malnutrition, including 28 among children under 5 years old.

While the world's focus has been on Gaza, there is also an escalating health crisis in the West Bank, where attacks on health care and restrictions on movement of people are obstructing access to health services.

Since the war in Gaza started, 508 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, including 124 children. More than 5,000 have been injured, including about 800 children.

WHO has documented 480 attacks on health care in the West Bank since the 7th of October last year, resulting in 16 deaths and 95 injuries. ...

In the West Bank, as in Gaza, the only solution is peace.

Once again, we urge all sides to implement the Security Council resolution immediately.

Again, the best medicine is peace. ...

**To read the full statement see**

<https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-12-june-2024>

*The UN Security Council Resolution referred to above, can be read at*

[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2735\(2024\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2735(2024))

### **Almost 3,000 malnourished children at risk of “dying before their families’ eyes” as Rafah offensive disconnects them from treatment**

Almost 3000 children have been cut off from treatment for moderate and severe acute malnutrition in southern Gaza, putting them at risk of death as harrowing violence and displacement continue to impact access to healthcare facilities and services for desperate families.

This number, based on reporting from UNICEF’s nutrition partners, equates to approximately three-quarters of the 3,800 children who were estimated to be receiving life-saving care in the south ahead of the escalating conflict in Rafah.

The looming risk of more vulnerable children falling sick to malnutrition is also a concern. While there has been a slight improvement in the delivery of food aid to the north, humanitarian access in the south has declined dramatically. ...

“Horrific images continue to emerge from Gaza of children dying before their families’ eyes due to the continued lack of food, nutrition supplies, and the destruction of healthcare services,” said UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa Adele Khodr. “Unless treatment can be quickly resumed for these 3,000 children, they are at immediate and serious risk of becoming critically ill, acquiring life-threatening complications, and joining the growing list of boys and girls who have been killed by this senseless, man-made deprivation.”

The risk of rising cases of malnutrition comes at the same time as malnutrition treatment services are collapsing. Today, only two of the Gaza Strip’s three stabilisation centres that treat seriously malnourished children are functioning. ...

Treating a child for acute malnutrition typically takes six to eight weeks of uninterrupted care and requires special therapeutic food, safe water, and other medical support.

Malnourished children are at heightened risk of catching diseases and other health issues due to limited access to safe water, sewage overflow, infrastructure damage, and a lack of hygiene items. Water production in the Gaza Strip is now less than a quarter of what was produced prior to the intensification of hostilities in October. ...

“UNICEF has more nutrition supplies prepositioned to arrive in the Gaza Strip, if access allows,” said Khodr. “United Nations agencies are seeking assurances that humanitarian operations can safely collect and distribute aid to children and their families without interruption. We need better operating conditions on the ground, with more safety and less restrictions. But ultimately, it is a ceasefire that children need most.”

**To read the full press release see**

<https://www.unicef.org/sop/press-releases/almost-3000-malnourished-children-risk-dying-their-families-eyes-rafah-offensive>

## NetPol

**In Our Millions: A Netpol report on the policing of protests in Britain against Israeli genocide in Palestine**

[https://netpol.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/InOurMillions\\_WEB.pdf](https://netpol.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/InOurMillions_WEB.pdf)

TOP

## Other Relevant Information

### United Nations

#### **Intolerance, Hate Speech Often Very Cause of Wars, Conflicts, Speaker Tells Security Council**

... **Alice Wairimu Nderitu, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide**, briefed the 15-member organ on the implementation of Security Council resolution 2686 (2023) on tolerance and international peace and security ... Violence does not start when physical attacks are launched. Violence often starts with words. Words of hatred spread intolerance, divide societies, promote and endorse discrimination and incite violence. All UN agencies contributing to this briefing consider “hate speech as a common thread underpinning the content of this important resolution”. Hate speech is not a new phenomenon, but the widespread use of social media today is allowing hate speech to be employed by anyone, reaching quicker distant audiences, and hence increasing the potential for offline harm.

She stressed that the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech provides a comprehensive framework for tackling the scourge ... The Plan of Action has also been a vehicle for engagement with tech and social media companies to prevent hate speech online from having real-world consequences offline. In 2023, her Office issued a policy guidance with specific recommendations for these companies. ...

“Tackling hate speech is complex and requires dedicated attention and support,” she said, including funding, political commitment and the Council’s support. The Council must continue its engagement with tech and social media companies and emphasize their roles and responsibilities in tackling online hate speech. ...

**The representative of the United Kingdom** stressed that Council resolution 2686 (2023) is underpinned by fundamental rights and freedoms, including promotion of gender equality and freedom of religion. In conflict situations, religious minorities often face persecution, she said, adding that when freedom of religion is respected, “we can build trust and understanding between communities”. ...

**The representative of the Russian Federation**, noting that resolution 2686 (2023) stressed the importance of tolerance, dialogue and religious diversity, said it calls on the Council to tackle discrimination, hate speech and violence through practical measures. The idea of racial superiority spawned colonialism, apartheid, Nazism and fascism — the most horrific crimes in the history of humankind. Noting that xenophobic rhetoric and discrimination on religious, ethnic and linguistic grounds is on the rise, she pointed to neo-Nazi marches in European countries. ...

**The representative of Algeria** ... stress[ed] that “tolerance cannot be materialized while we are in front of barbaric aggression being perpetrated by the Israeli occupation against innocent civilians in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.” ... “Tolerance and prevention of genocide cannot be materialized if those who represent the UN are suddenly blinded when it comes to naming as genocide the atrocities being perpetrated in Gaza,” he said, adding that the right for self-determination must be granted to those under oppression and forcibly displaced in Palestine, Western Sahara and elsewhere. ...

**The representative of France**, stressing that hate speech is unacceptable, emphasized that tolerance is indispensable and must be pitted against hate speech and violence. ... Many religious leaders play an important pacifying role in conflict situations, she said, also stressing the crucial role of human rights defenders. ...

**The representative of the United States** said that resolution 2686 (2013) “does not grant license to States to repress dissenting views under the pretext of ‘countering extremism’ or maintaining peace or societal harmony”. ...

**The representative of Switzerland** said ... The call for tolerance is ... a call to fight against discrimination in all its forms and to respect the dignity of every human being.



Human rights — a sine qua non for building a lasting peace — are our “bulwark against the dehumanization, inequality and injustice that often lie at the root of violent conflict” ...

**To read the full press release see**

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15731.doc.htm>

UNSCR 2686, referred to above, can be read at

[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2686\(2023\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2686(2023))

The UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech, referred to above, can be read at

[https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/advising-and-mobilizing/Action\\_plan\\_on\\_hate\\_speech\\_EN.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/advising-and-mobilizing/Action_plan_on_hate_speech_EN.pdf)

The policy guidance referred to above can be read at

[https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/publications-and-resources/Countering\\_Online\\_Hate\\_Speech\\_Guide\\_policy\\_makers\\_practitioners\\_July\\_2023.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/documents/publications-and-resources/Countering_Online_Hate_Speech_Guide_policy_makers_practitioners_July_2023.pdf)

TOP

## Relevant Legislation \*\* new or updated today

### UK Parliament

#### **Holocaust Memorial Bill**

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3421>

### Scottish Parliament

#### **Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland-bill>

#### **Gender Recognition Reform (Scotland) Bill**

<https://www.parliament.scot/bills-and-laws/bills/gender-recognition-reform-scotland-bill>

TOP

## Consultations \*\* new or updated today

**\*\* closes in 4 days**

**Faith school designation reforms** (closing date 20 June 2024)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/faith-schools-policy-team/faith-school-designation-reforms/>

**Review of the RSHE statutory guidance** (closing date 11 July 2024)

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/rshe-team/review-of-the-rshe-statutory-guidance/>

**Petitioning against the Holocaust Memorial Bill** (closing date 17 July 2024)

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/8481/petitioning-against-the-holocaust-memorial-bill/>

House of Lords: Guidance on the right to be heard

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55634/documents/4871>

House of Lords: Guidance on submitting your petition

<https://bills.parliament.uk/publications/55632/documents/4869>

**£20k registration threshold for charities in Northern Ireland** (closing date 11 August 2024)  
<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-ps20k-registration-threshold-charities-northern-ireland>

**Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill** (closing date 16 August 2024)  
[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/health/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-bill/consult_view/)

**Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill: Financial Memorandum**  
(closing date 16 August 2024)  
[https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult\\_view/](https://yourviews.parliament.scot/finance/assisted-dying-for-terminally-ill-adults-scotland/consult_view/)

**Gaps in Equality Legislation [Northern Ireland]** (closing date 6 September 2024)  
<https://consult.nia-yourassembly.org.uk/committee-for-the-executive-office/gaps-in-equality-legislation-inquiry>

[TOP](#)

The Scottish Council of Jewish Communities (SCoJeC) is Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation SC029438