

**BRITAIN MUST
RECOGNISE
THE STATE OF
PALESTINE
IMMEDIATELY**

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The UK has announced it will recognise the State of Palestine unless the Israeli Government takes “substantive steps to end the appalling situation in Gaza”, which includes a ceasefire.

Such a position is deeply problematic. **Palestinian statehood is not a bargaining chip and Palestinian rights are not conditional.** Recognition should not depend on whether the very state carrying out mass atrocities chooses to stop. It is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and must be recognised on this basis alone.

147 out of 193 UN member states - over three quarters - have already recognised the State of Palestine, including Ireland, Spain, Norway, South Africa and Brazil. Yet, the United Kingdom continues to delay.

THE REALITY IN GAZA

Since October 2023, **over 59,000 Palestinians have been killed** in Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza. Israel's blockade has triggered a humanitarian catastrophe, leading to mass starvation and the collapse of healthcare. The UN has called Gaza the hungriest place on earth, with nearly one in three people without food and over 90,000 in urgent need of treatment for malnutrition.

This is not just a humanitarian crisis, it is a genocide. The International Court of Justice is investigating genocide, the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Israeli leaders and the Hague group is seeking to block arms shipments to Israel.

Recognition cannot wait for Israel to stop. It must happen now.

SHIFTING GLOBAL OPINION

The momentum for Palestinian statehood is building. In 1988, following Yasser Arafat's declaration of Palestinian statehood, over 80 countries recognised it, with strong support across Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Recognition has continued to grow. In 2014, Sweden became the first Western European country to recognise Palestine. Now France and Canada have pledged to do the same at the upcoming United Nations General Assembly meeting, becoming the first G7 nation to take this step. Others, including Australia, New Zealand, Belgium, Malta and Portugal have signalled their intent to follow

Recognition alone won't end the genocide or occupation, but it could help rebalance international diplomacy, support Palestinian access to legal avenues and give hope to a people who have been denied their rights for generations.

BRITISH PUBLIC AND POLITICAL SUPPORT

Public opinion in the UK has shifted dramatically:

- 70% of Britons want an immediate ceasefire.
- 56% support banning UK arms sales to Israel.
- Among those polled who oppose Israel's war on Gaza, 82% believe Israel's actions amount to genocide.

In Parliament, 221 MPs from nine parties, including senior cabinet ministers, have called for the government to recognise Palestine. Yet Prime Minister Keir Starmer continues to delay, making recognition conditional on the behaviour of a state carrying out a genocide.

RECOGNITION IS NECESSARY

Britain's response so far has been morally and politically inadequate: partial suspensions of arms licences, delayed condemnation and empty rhetoric. Recognising the State of Palestine is not symbolic. It is a vital step toward justice, peace and accountability. It affirms the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and sovereignty, and could perhaps help Britain regain moral credibility on the global stage after the government's earlier explicit support for Israel's actions in Gaza. Continued delay only deepens injustice and undermines peace.

The question is no longer whether the UK should recognise Palestine, but how much longer it will delay doing what's right.



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THE CONFLICT IN GAZA AND ISRAEL- PALESTINE MORE
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