

**PSC briefing for MPs ahead of backbench debate sponsored by Abtisam Mohamed on
“A ban on trade with illegal Israeli settlements” – Thursday 9 July**

This debate takes place at a crucial time, with the prospect of a new Prime Minister and amid growing pressure from constituents and MPs across the House for a change in government policy and much stronger action on Israel’s continued violations of international law. **Please use this debate to:**

- Urge the government, and the incoming Prime Minister, to urgently take real and meaningful action against Israel’s atrocities against the Palestinian people.
- Publicly support measures to end the government’s complicity in Israel’s ongoing genocide, apartheid and illegal occupation, starting with wide-ranging sanctions: stopping the arms trade with Israel and prohibiting all trade that aids or assists Israel’s grave violations of international law, including all trade with illegal Israeli settlements.

ICJ Ruling – two years on and still no action

In July 2024 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territory in Gaza and the West Bank including in Jerusalem is illegal, that Israel is committing the crime of apartheid, and that all states have an obligation to bring these crimes to an immediate end.

The ICJ ruling stipulates that states are obliged not to aid or assist the illegal occupation, including through trade policies. After two years, and despite being repeatedly asked to do so, the government has shamefully still not responded to this historic ruling and remains deeply complicit in the suffering of Palestinians. MPs must demand the government formally responds to the ICJ ruling immediately.

Escalation of violence in the West Bank and annexation of land

Since October 2023, the illegally occupied West Bank has seen a dramatic escalation in violence and militarisation, with Israeli forces deploying airstrikes, tanks, and widespread demolitions, echoing the tactics used in Gaza. This has been accompanied by a surge in violent attacks by illegal Israeli settlers, backed and often facilitated by the Israeli state. The current pace of settler attacks is higher than in any year on record. These assaults are not isolated incidents - they are part of a coordinated campaign to forcibly drive Palestinians from their land.

In September, Israeli finance minister and self-declared “fascist homophobe” Bezalel Smotrich unveiled a mapped plan for Israel to formally annex 82% of the West Bank. This year the Israeli government also approved a proposal submitted by far-right ministers to reinstate the racist land registration process. This measure will be used to further dispossess Palestinians of their land, enable the expansion of illegal Israeli settlements, and entrench Israel’s illegal occupation. Large swathes of Palestinian land will be at risk of being registered as Israeli state property if Palestinians cannot prove ownership, which is extremely difficult to do. This is a dangerous step further cementing Israel’s de-facto annexation of stolen Palestinian land.

Government measures utterly inadequate

Last month the government announced a new set of sanctions against just six companies and individuals financing, enabling and carrying out settler violence in the illegally occupied West Bank. These measures are utterly inadequate, and do not come close to meeting the government's legal obligations to end all involvement with Israel's illegal settlement enterprise. Such piecemeal steps will not prevent Israel from continuing to act with impunity in its genocide and crimes against the Palestinian people.

The government also announced that it will 'firmly advise' British businesses against illegal activity, sending the disgraceful message that acting according to international law is optional. It is inexcusable that the government is still permitting any trade with illegal settlements. As a bare minimum, MPs must demand the government implements an immediate ban on trade in all goods and services linked with illegal settlements.

Israel continues to commit genocide and atrocity crimes

While the British government dithers with inaction, Israel is further entrenching its illegal occupation and system of apartheid through rapid settlement expansion and the continuation of its genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. The situation facing Palestinians is dire. Over 73,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip, including more than 21,000 children since October 2023. Since the start of the so-called ceasefire in October, over 1,000 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire in Gaza. At the same time, Israel is continuing to prevent the UN and international agencies delivering essential humanitarian aid to Palestinians in desperate need. The genocide is not over.

The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry confirmed in its report this month that Israel is continuing to commit genocide and other atrocity crimes against Palestinians, with Palestinian children being deliberately targeted as part of a broader pattern of destruction and collective harm.¹

UN experts have also concluded that Israel is systematically and purposefully using torture against Palestinians detained by Israel, including children, who are routinely subjected to brutal beatings, sexual violence, starvation, and lethal mistreatment that has led to unprecedented numbers dying in custody.²

Israel's racist death penalty laws, mass incarceration and torture

The Israeli Knesset has recently passed blatantly racist legislation to introduce a system of death penalty by hanging exclusively for Palestinians – whether they are Palestinians with Israeli citizenship or Palestinians living under Israel's illegal occupation in the West Bank. Since 2023 Israel has escalated its use of mass incarceration, as well as the abuse of Palestinians detained, as a tool of intimidation and repression. Adding the death penalty to a context where fundamental rights to a fair trial are not in place is legally and morally grotesque and must be met with sanctions from the British government.

Time for sanctions now!

Polling shows that the electorate does not support the government's position on Palestine, and its ongoing complicity in Israel's illegal occupation and genocide is driving voters to other parties³. The incoming Prime Minister must listen to the views of constituents and finally take real and meaningful action – including sanctions and an end to arms sales – to end Israel's atrocities against the Palestinian people.

¹ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2026/06/israel-continues-commit-genocide-and-other-atrocity-crimes-deliberately>

² <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/torture-and-genocide-report-francesca-albanese-a-hrc-61-71/>

³ <https://palestinecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/Copy-of-Polling-Briefing.pdf>