

Statement on Gaza

As a legal charity working to defend and extend people's rights in Scotland, we **express our solidarity and support** to everyone affected by the ongoing human rights and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

In our own work in Scotland, we work to advance and strengthen the rights of children, women, migrants, refugees, disabled people, LGBT+ people, survivors of trafficking, and others who face severe breaches of their rights and barriers to securing justice.

This means we work directly with people affected by war, displacement, gender-based violence, racism, persecution, inequality, and barriers to being with their families. We recognise the deep harm and trauma experienced by anyone affected by these breaches of their rights. We therefore stand with all displaced people, victims of violence and those forced to flee from war.

That is why we are **adding our voice to calls for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire in Gaza**, as an essential step to prevent further loss of life, trauma and untold harm.

The ongoing loss of life and human suffering in Gaza is unacceptable. Over 33,000 Palestinians have been killed and many more wounded and made homeless. Eighty percent of the population in Gaza has been forcibly displaced, with nowhere safe for people to go.

Protecting civilians in an armed conflict is a cornerstone of international humanitarian law and a principle of human rights. Yet in Gaza, essential services have been cut off, including water and electricity. Critical humanitarian aid has been blocked from reaching people in need. [Senior UN officials](#) have warned of the imminent risk of famine.

The UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories has concluded that there are "[reasonable grounds to believe the threshold indicating Israel's commission of genocide is met](#)". The International Court of Justice has also, [in a preliminary ruling](#), found it plausible that Israel is committing genocide.

As an organisation that believes in the fundamental importance of international human rights laws and standards, we are deeply concerned that the international community has failed to take appropriate actions to respond to this grave human rights emergency.

We therefore call on both Scottish and UK Governments to do all that they can to **ensure that international human rights and humanitarian laws are upheld and respected** by all parties.

JustRight Scotland

JustRight Scotland is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SC047818) which provides legal services through its limited liability partnership, JustRight Scotland LLP which trades as JustRight Scotland (SO305962). This firm has been authorised to act as solicitors by the Law Society of Scotland (Registered No 53703).

Room 1, 1st Floor, Libertas
House, 39 St Vincent Place,
Glasgow, G1 2ER

W ▶ www.justrightscotland.org.uk
T ▶ [@justrightscot](https://twitter.com/justrightscot)

We also call on both Governments to **use their power and influence to ensure civilians are protected unequivocally and that humanitarian aid can reach people in Gaza.**

Nobody should be forced to leave their home or their country. But when this does happen, it's crucial that people have access to safety, protection and dignified routes to sanctuary in the UK. We are currently working with families in Scotland who are trying to reunite with loved ones displaced from their homes in Gaza – a desperate situation that the UK Home Office has the power to ease.

Therefore, we are also supporting the [petition](#) led by the [Gaza Families Reunited](#) campaign calling on the UK Government to **urgently introduce a Gaza Family Scheme, allowing Palestinians in Gaza to reunite safely and quickly with their family members in the UK.** The Scheme would create a safe route to sanctuary by removing the bureaucratic, inaccessible and discriminatory logistical barriers in the current immigration process. We invite as many people as possible to sign the petition.

Finally, we note the recent legal analysis on arms to Israel provided by more than 600 lawyers, legal academics and retired senior judges, set out in a [letter](#) to the Prime Minister. In light of this, we are deeply concerned that the UK may be breaching international law by continuing to sell weapons to Israel.

At JustRight Scotland, we work closely with many organisations, communities and individuals who share our belief in and commitment to building a better world, where everyone's rights are a reality. We invite our many friends and colleagues in Scotland to join in our calls, standing united in our support and solidarity with the people of Gaza.

15.04.2024