



Mass Lobby of Parliament for Palestine

The National Lobby for Palestine is supported by:

Action for Palestinian Children, Amos Trust, ASLEF, The Association of the Palestinian Community in the UK (APCUK), British Muslim Initiative (BMI), CAABU, Campaign Against Arms Trade, CWU – The Communications Union, Fire Brigades Union (FBU), Friends of Al-Aqsa, Friends of Sabeel UK, GMB, the General Union of Palestinian Students (GUPS UK), Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions UK (ICAHDUK), Jews for Justice for Palestinians (Jfjfp), Kairos Britain, Labour Friends of Palestine and the Middle East (LFPME), Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights (LPHR), Liberal Democrat Friends of Palestine (LDFP), Muslim Association of Britain (MAB), Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), MEND, National Union of Teachers (NUT), Palestine Briefing, Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), Palestinian Forum of Britain (PFB), Pax Christi, Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), RMT, Scottish Friends of Palestine (SFoP), Thompsons Solicitors, Unite the Union, UNISON, War on Want

Your briefing

If you have any questions contact:
sara.apps@palestinecampaign.org
020 7700 6192

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INTRODUCTION

On Tuesday 9 September (from 2pm-6pm) hundreds of supporters will gather together in Parliament to call on MPs to take action for Palestinian human rights and against ethnic cleansing and racism. Make sure you are there!

What is the national lobby for Palestine?

The most powerful way to let your MP know you care about Palestine is to ask them to meet you to discuss it. When lots of people from around the UK arrange to meet their MPs in Parliament on the same day, it is known as a lobby day and alerts all MPs to the fact that lots of people care about the issue. Put very simply, an MP notices when their constituents have a problem, be it with their housing, or with Israel!

This Mass Lobby of Parliament is an emergency lobby focused on Gaza.

We will be asking for MPs for:

1 An immediate and permanent lifting of the blockade on Gaza, allowing free movement of people, goods and humanitarian aid.

The blockade of Gaza started in 2007 and continues today. Israel severely restricts Palestinians' freedom of movement; blocks almost all exports and restricts imports, creating a humanitarian catastrophe. Tell your MP it is time to end the blockade of Gaza.

2 An end to the arms trade and all military-industrial collaboration with Israel.

3 Sanctions against Israel until it abides by international and human rights law.

There are more detailed policy briefings about these issues further on in your pack.

What difference will the lobby make?

Palestinian human rights continue to be violated by the Israeli Government, every minute, every hour, every day. It is clear from the latest actions of Israel's Government that this will not change without external pressure. That pressure will not come from the USA, so it must come from European countries like ours. Britain's historic obligation to Palestine and our role in international politics means we are key to achieving change.

Support for Palestine is growing all the time: there has been a sea-change in support for Palestinian human rights in Parliament. Noticeably in recent debates including the one on 21 July when so many MPs referred in their speeches to their constituent's emails on the subject. But Government and the majority of Parliament are much less supportive than the general public. It is our Parliament, they are our MPs – so let's show them they must respect Palestinian human rights if they want our support.

Your support will make a huge difference. If you invite your family and friends you can multiply that!

What now?

1 Get in touch with your MP using our e-tool palestinecampaign.org/campaign/lobby

2 Take time off on Tuesday 9 September so you can attend the Parliamentary event

3 Ask your family & friends to join you

4 Book your travel (and if you would like us to try and arrange somewhere for you to stay let us know as soon as possible)

4 Keep your evening free for the evening rally from 6.30pm-8pm at Parliament. You can book your place online: palestinecampaign.org/events/lobby-rally

Frequently asked questions

Who can take part in the mass lobby?

If you're eligible to vote in General Elections you can lobby your local MP.

Do I need to be an expert?

No! Your MP regularly meets local people who care passionately about an issue, but they shouldn't expect you to know everything. We will provide all the information you need in advance. But you will want to be well prepared. We have created this briefing to help you, and we also have experts on hand on the day itself for last-minute preparation and questions.

When should I arrive in Parliament?

The lobby is taking place on Tuesday 9 September between 2-4pm in Committee Room 11. There will be a long queue to get into Parliament. You should allow 30-45 minutes just in case.

How long will my meeting last?

The meeting will normally last about half an hour, sometimes more, sometimes less. There are likely to be other people meeting your MP at the same time – MPs like to see constituents together, so you won't be alone!

Will I meet my MP?

Some MPs send their assistants or researchers to meet constituents if they can't make it. Don't be disappointed - staff prepare most letters and briefings for their MP, so they are a key person to engage with.

My MP hasn't replied to my request for a meeting. What should I do?

If your MP hasn't replied send a reminder then phone Parliament on 020 7219 3000 and ask to speak to their office. **Check their contact details** www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/

If my MP is unavailable should I come?

Yes, do come along. You can still leave a card for your MP to let them know you came, write them a personal letter and help show support for Palestinians. You may find they are unexpectedly available or send a member of staff to meet you.

What is it like?

Coming to the lobby is one of the best ways to show solidarity with the Palestinian people and we are sure you will get a lot out of the day. You'll meet lots of like-minded people, our preparation talks are interesting and informative.

It is also a great way to visit Parliament, and there is also an evening rally with MPs, Lords and other great speakers. Make sure you are a part of it.

Book your meeting now

Get in touch with your MP using our e-tool palestinecampaign.org/campaign/lobby
Let us know when your meeting is

As soon as you know when and where your MP is meeting you, please get in touch and let us know. Please get in touch either via email:

patricia.banke@palestinecampaign.org or by

filling in the form on our website:

<http://www.palestinecampaign.org/yourmeeting/>

Timetable

1100 Registration opens

Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Avenue

Behind Westminster Cathedral SW1P 1QW (nearest tube: Victoria)

1200 Pre-briefings

1400 Lobby of MPs

Committee Room 11, House of Commons (nearest tube: Westminster)

1600 Lobby ends

1800 Evening Rally

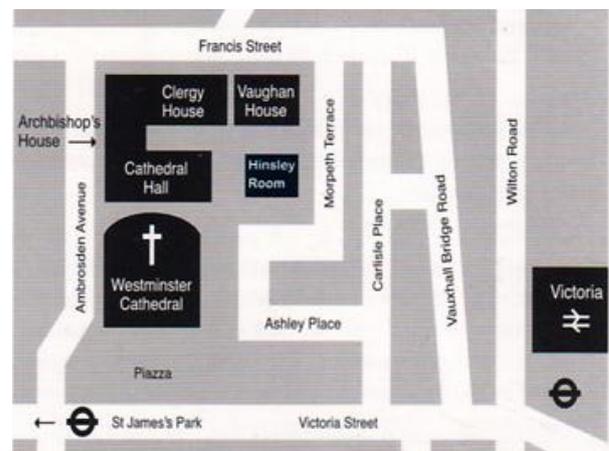
House of Commons

With: speakers

1930 Event ends

How to find Cathedral Hall

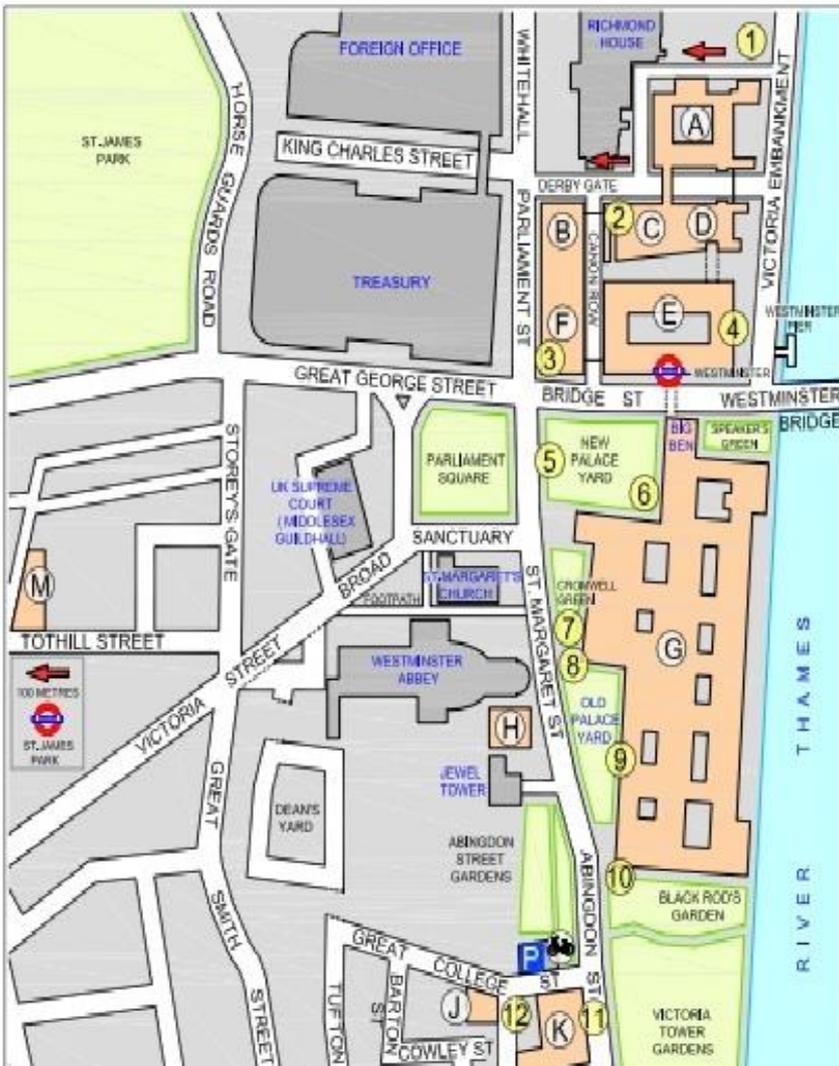
The front entrance to the hall is in Ambrosden Avenue, SW1P 1QH. Access is from Victoria St or Francis St.



How to find Parliament

7 In case you are travelling direct to Parliament: no 7 marks **the main visitors' entrance to Parliament** (Cromwell Green).

The nearest tube is **Westminster**. To plan your London journey visit tfl.gov.uk/journeyplanner



When you enter through Parliament all visitors are subject to a security scan and bag search. The lobby of Parliament is taking place in the committee rooms upstairs. Walk through Westminster Hall, walk up to your left and through central Lobby. Beyond central lobby there are stairs on the right which lead to the 'committee corridor'. We will be waiting in committee room 11.

Both Palestine lobby stewards and Parliament's staff can help if you get lost.

On the day

Accessibility

Please contact us if you have any accessibility needs. Email sara.apps@palestinecampaign.org or call 020 7700 6192.

The House of Commons has information online about accessibility issues parliament.uk/visiting/access

If your MP is meeting you before 2pm

If so, make sure that you leave half an hour to get through security and print off and take this briefing with you.

If you aren't sure where your meeting is please do ask the security staff who are generally extremely helpful.

We can arrange for you to receive your verbal briefing before the day. Please email sara.apps@palestinecampaign.org or phone 020 7700 6192 if you wish to arrange this.

If your MP is meeting you between 2pm-4pm

We will have stewards in Parliament to direct you.

Other information

Dress code Believe it or not, people are often prevented from entering Parliament wearing visible slogans, or even carrying Palestine flags. If you have quantities of books or brochures they might also be taken from you. Please bear this in mind when getting ready to come. We will have large stickers for you all to wear which will demonstrate you are there to support Palestinian human rights.

No posters or banners

The House of Commons will not allow posters or banners in Parliament.

Refreshments there is a public café within the secure area of Parliament, just off Westminster Hall where you can buy drinks, lunch or snacks. It

is open until 1700. You may want to bring supplies with you, particularly if you have a meeting later in the day

How to lobby your MP

Thank your MP for taking the time to see you

Find out how long they have to talk to you. If you are seeing your MP with other people you will need to allow time for them to make their points.

Ensure they know your key message: we need action not words to defend Palestinian human rights.

Focus on one or two of the key issues enclosed in this briefing.

Take time to listen to their views – but do interrupt if they are taking up all the time.

Prepare one or two actions that you would like them to take. Do research to choose these. For example, if they are a Government Minister they won't ask questions or sign motions/EDMs, so ask them to write and talk to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary instead. If they are very active on the issue, ask them to call a debate on the issues you are discussing.

Take a photograph with them if possible.

Leave them a copy of the briefing that we will provide on the day. If you are meeting your MP on a different day then please download the briefings from palestinecampaign.org/campaign/lobby page.

After your meeting

Please fill in the feedback form at the back of this pack (we will also have copies available on the day).

An end to the blockade of Gaza

Gaza is home to a population of more than 1.8 million people, including well over a million Palestinian refugees. Many of these refugees are those – and their descendants - who were forced to flee from their homes during 1947/48, when Israel was established.

Whilst the mainly refugee population in Gaza await justice and freedom, the situation in Gaza continues to deteriorate and their human rights become further eroded.

Palestinians in Gaza have been living under Israel's blockade for more than seven years, effectively imprisoning 1.8 million people on a strip of land.

Israel's policy of blockading Gaza is a violation of Palestinians' human rights and endangers their lives and health. It also prevents them fleeing during Israel's violent attacks. Over 2,100 Palestinians, the vast majority civilian (including 495 children) were killed between 7 July-26 August. During this period 69 Israelis were also killed, the vast majority soldiers.

Key facts

- UN OCHA, the UN agency responsible for collecting key data on Palestinian human rights, report that – despite Israel launching many previous offensives – the scale of the damage is unprecedented, higher than even Operation Cast Lead. 13% of the housing stock has been affected. More than 108,000 people are homeless. Shelter Cluster, co-chaired by the U.N. refugee agency and the Red Cross, say it will take more than 20 years to rebuild.
- UNRWA – the UN agency coordinating refugee support for Palestinians – said the need for shelter for displaced persons reached an unprecedented scale, unseen in UNRWA's 64 year history of providing aid for Palestinian refugees.
- Scheduled power cuts continue for 18 hours a day on average. Gaza city only has electricity for 4 hours per day.
- Only 10% of the population of the Gaza Strip receive water once a day, 50% receives water

once every four days; and 25% receive water once every five days; (in all cases the duration is for six to eight hours).

- Before the bombing, 90% of water from the aquifer was not safe for drinking without treatment. UNRWA assessed the aquifer – on which Gaza relies - could become unusable as early as 2016, with the damage irreversible by 2020. This situation has only deteriorated.
- 120 schools have been damaged and many others are being used as shelters. Nearly half a million children in Gaza were unable to return to primary and secondary schools for the scheduled start to the new academic year
- The 1.8m residents of Gaza are facing increasing hardship in their daily lives, due to rising prices, scarcity of essential goods including medicines, unsafe water and high unemployment

We need support from MPs to press the Israeli and Egyptian governments to permit the free flow of goods and people to and from Gaza. Not only do we seek an end to the humanitarian crisis but also the ability of Palestinians to live normal lives - free to travel, meet relatives, work and have a family life without punitive restrictions. These restrictions represent a collective punishment for the 1.8m who live in Gaza.

What we are calling for:

For the UK Government to make public, urgent and sustained representations to Israel and Egypt to lift border restrictions and allow free movement of people, goods and aid

Ending the blockade means ending Israeli control of all imports. Gaza needs an autonomous crossing not controlled by Israel, for example, an international seaport. The EU proposal for a Cyprus corridor is a good first start and should be supported by the UK and EU.

Sanctions placed on Israel

The EU cooperates with Israel to an extent well beyond that offered to any other non-European nation. Agreements allow Israel full access to the EU scientific, academic, research and technical programmes, and extensive EU-Israeli cooperation and integration in many important sectors.

The framework for this cooperation – the EU Israel Association Agreement - is meant to be dependent upon Israel and the EU abiding by the human rights clause 2 contained within it. Yet, Israel clearly breaches that agreement everyday in its colonisation of Palestinian land and its violent occupation of territory and suppression of Palestinian right to self-determination. Added to that, in recent weeks Israel has killed more than 2,000 Palestinians and destroyed civil infrastructure in Gaza. Israel's scale of killing in Gaza, with targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure makes continued cooperation with Israel on this scale, legally, politically and morally untenable.

Additionally, EU supports Israeli research thereby providing funding for Israeli military companies and universities that develop technology used directly to oppress Palestinian people.

The European Union has spoken out against Israel's construction of settlements, its disproportionate use of military force and some of its other violations of international law. Recent steps to scale back European cooperation with Israel's occupation of Palestinian territory are welcome. However, it is clear there is a sharp policy gap between the policies that the EU has adopted and the policies that would be required to help end Israeli violations of international law.

As Israel's most recent massacre in Gaza shows, the EU has failed to treat Israel in the way that it treats other states that systematically violate international law and commit war crimes. The EU allows Israel to act with impunity.

UN-run schools acting as civilian shelters were hit seven times during Israel's Gaza offensive. This is despite coordinates for all the UN facilities being communicated to the Israel Forces. Hundreds of Palestinians at the schools were wounded and at least 47 were killed. A disproportionate number of those hurt were children or women. These were just some of the 485,000 internally displaced people seeking shelter after being warned by the Israeli military to leave their homes.

The EU must uphold its own principles of holding Israel to account for its recent war crimes in Gaza and its other violations of international law and Palestinian human rights.

The failure to suspend the Association Agreement is completely out of step with the EU's determination to act to hold other states to account, for example, Russia and Sri Lanka.

Reparations from Israel Moreover, it is clear that through our reconstruction of Gaza, following Israel's massive onslaught against this occupied people, the UK and EU tax payers will be funding Israel's occupation and paying for their crimes.

UK taxpayers should not subsidise Israel's destruction of Gaza. DFID, as the lead Government department assisting in the rebuilding of Gaza, should call to be reimbursed by Israel. The bill sent by the UK Government to Israel should clearly state that the UK government is issuing it as part of **third-state responsibility** to ensure accountability and prevent impunity for international law violations. The UK is obligated as a third state party, party to IV Geneva Convention, to demand from the violator to make reparations, compensation.

Taxpayers want the UK government to make public the complete list of all UK funded projects destroyed and/or damaged and/or setback and/or delayed by Israel's war on Gaza. This should also apply to the West Bank and East Jerusalem

demolitions. This includes DFID funding of INGO's who partner with local NGO's, not just direct DFID funding.

If it is impossible to recoup the money directly from Israel then the UK and EU should impose a Gaza reconstruction tax on all Israeli imports. The fees collected will go towards a Gaza Reconstruction Fund.

Our demands

Britain should propose and push for the suspension of the EU-Israel Association Agreement until we see Israel abide by the human rights obligations in its agreements with the EU

The UK should demand that DfID and EU funds spent rebuilding Gaza due to Israel's bombing campaign should be repaid by Israel

Israeli Arms industry

We are campaigning for an end to the arms trade, and all military-industrial collaboration, with Israel.

How much is it worth? Israel is a major arms producer in its own right and what it does not make it procures largely from the United States. However, since 2010 the UK has licensed the export of £42m of military equipment to Israel, including that used in targeting systems and drone components. UK companies also provide components that go into US built equipment destined for Israel.

This is a two way trade: Israel is the acknowledged expert in drone technology. The UK government has leased Hermes 450 drones for use in Afghanistan and has placed an £800m contract with Israel to develop a new Watchkeeper drone heavily based on the Hermes 450. The Watchkeeper is currently unarmed but at the DSEI Arms Fair in London was presented with missiles. (Jerusalem Post)

Which British companies are involved?

Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) lists 44 military companies throughout the UK (some with HQ in the US or Israel but with subsidiary companies in the UK) which manufacture drone engines, bomb components and other parts for export.

These include:

- BAE Systems: Its head up display units equip selected F-16s
- Lockheed Martin: produces the F-16 and its UK subsidiary has received export licences for Israel
- Boeing: produces Apache attack helicopters and its UK subsidiary has received export licences for Israel
- Raytheon: makes laser-guided Paveway II bombs. Its UK subsidiary has received export licences for Israel.
- Elbit Systems: (subsidiaries UAV Tactical Systems Ltd and UAV Engines Ltd) electronic military communication technology and unmanned aircraft technology including the Hermes drone, currently collaborating with the UK on the 'Watchkeeper' drone programme

EU and UK law states that weapons should not be sold if they are likely to facilitate internal suppression or external aggression.

"From a business point of view, the operation [Protective Edge] was an outstanding thing for the defence industries"

Amir Rapaport, editor of Israel Defence

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office has named Israel as one of 27 'countries of concern' for human rights abuses. Clearly, the UK government has no way of making sure that any military equipment going to the IDF won't be used for internal suppression or external aggression and the likelihood is that it will be.

F-16s, Apache helicopters, and drones were all used to attack heavily populated civilian areas in Gaza during Operation Protective Edge

What is our government's policy? On 4 August 2014 the Prime Minister said that all export licences would be reviewed. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) announced, following the review, on 12 August that it would suspend 12 export licences for arms and other military equipment to Israel if there was a resumption of military hostilities. Israel resumed its attack on 20 August 2014, but, to date, those licences have not been suspended.

Existing policy: "All export licence applications to Israel are considered on a case-by-case basis against the Consolidated EU and National Licensing criteria". (Alistair Burt, Foreign Office Minister 10 February 2011)

What is the legal position?

Law firm Leigh Day, representing CAAT, has written to the business secretary Vince Cable claiming that the government's failure to suspend existing licences for the export of military components to Israel is unlawful given the risk they may have been used in Gaza.

Operation Protective Edge - good for business? "Homeland Security" is Israel's biggest export. When weapons are "combat tested" their value increases. Today, according to the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, back orders for Israel's new MPR - 500 multi purpose rigid bomb, designed to penetrate reinforced concrete structures, were first used operationally in 'Protective Edge', and totalled 5.6 billion shekels.

Our demands

A suspension of all export licences to Israel where the end-user is the IDF or military industry.

A public review of all military-industrial collaboration with Israel, leading to a complete end to all military links

Please ask your MP to sign EDM 313 'UK Arms Exports to Israel'

For all the issues

If your MP is a backbencher (ie doesn't have a role in Government or the Opposition) then ask him/her to:

- Support a parliamentary debate
- Sign Parliamentary motions (EDMs)
- Ask parliamentary questions

If your MP is a frontbencher (ie has a role in Government or the shadow team) then ask him/her to:

- Write to the Foreign and DfID Secretaries of State
- Raise the Gaza blockade in Cabinet (when attending meetings)
- Raise the issues individually with Ministers and the Prime Minister

All MPs can:

- Attend and support local meetings and events
- Try to visit Gaza and the West Bank

Feedback form

Your name

.....

Email

.....

Name of your MP

.....

Constituency

.....

Which issue(s) did you raise with your MP:

- The blockade on Gaza
- An end to the arms trade, and all military-industrial collaboration, with Israel
- Sanctions against Israel until they abide by international and human rights law

Other:

.....

Is your MP willing to take Parliamentary action?

- a) Sign Early Day Motions?
 Yes No
- b) Write to Ministers on your behalf?
 Yes No
- c) Table parliamentary questions?
 Yes No
- d) Apply for Adjournment/Westminster Hall debates? Yes No

Is your MP willing to get involved nationally and locally by?

- a) Join Britain-Palestine All Party Group?
 Yes No already a member
- b) Join their political parties' group?
 Yes No Already a member
- c) Speak at / hold a local meeting?
 Yes No
- d) Visit the occupied Palestinian territory?
 Yes No

For today, will your MP:

- a) Submit a question to International Development Yes No
- b) Sign our #actionnotwords sheet (provided)
 Yes No
- c) Get a photograph with you Yes No

In general, did you MP seem:

- very supportive supportive neutral
- unsupportive

Further comment (please continue overleaf if necessary):

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Please return this to: Please return this form to:
November Lobby Feedback, PSC Box BM PSA, London
WC1N 3XX Fax: 0207 609 7779
sara.apps@palestinecampaign.org or fill it in online at
palestinecampaign.org/gazalobbysurvey/