

Greens call for urgent government peace initiative to end Israel-Gaza war



Green Party

11 January 2024

The Green Party has urged the government to launch an urgent international peace effort to end the Israel Gaza war.

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“The horrific loss of Israeli civilian lives on October 7 has been compounded by months of devastation for the people of Gaza and the Occupied West Bank, leading to over 23,000 deaths and the escalating risk of wars spreading through the region.

“Now is the time to search for new peace initiatives that can break this cycle of pain and create the conditions for a lasting peace in the region.

“We need the UK government to work to restore trust in the international institutions designed to protect people and that offer peaceful, legal and diplomatic avenues to end conflicts.

“Of course, it is for the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to agree the long-term solutions that will offer each security and peace.

“However, the UK government can do much more now to encourage that process to begin. That is why the Green Party is today urging the UK government to:

- Unequivocally back an immediate ceasefire to allow the free flow of humanitarian aid, free the hostages and create space for dialogue
- Support the UN General Assembly in its overwhelming backing for a ceasefire and use its position as a permanent member of the UN Security Council to vote for rather than abstain on ceasefire votes
- Support the role of the International Criminal Court in its investigation of war crimes, including the use of sexual violence by Hamas and disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government
- Support South Africa in its decision to ask the International Court of Justice to rule on whether Israel is carrying out genocide in Gaza.

- Help reduce military action by suspending arms sales to Israel

“By supporting international institutions and encouraging peaceful solutions, the UK government can act as a partner for peace rather than a proponent for further pain and suffering for the people of the region.

“It will take courage and determination to change course and recognise that UK foreign policy is failing to bring this conflict to an end, but a change of course now, can help chart a new path to peace.”

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Unequivocally back an immediate ceasefire to allow the free flow of humanitarian aid, free the hostages and create space for dialogue

Hostages should be released unconditionally, and aid should be able to reach those in need, even without a ceasefire. However, a ceasefire would undoubtedly assist both to happen and would create space for a peaceful, diplomatic dialogue about the future to begin.

1. Support the UN General Assembly in its overwhelming backing for a ceasefire and use its position as a permanent member of the UN Security Council to vote for rather than abstain on ceasefire votes

The UN General Assembly voted overwhelmingly for a ceasefire in mid-December, with the US voting against and the UK abstaining (153 in favour, 10 against, 23 abstained).

All permanent members of the UN Security Council – bar the US and the UK – have backed a ceasefire. The US used has used its veto to block the resolution, while the UK has abstained.

1. Support the role of the International Criminal Court in its investigation of war crimes, including the use of sexual violence by Hamas and disproportionate use of force by the Israeli government

In March 2021, the International Criminal Court’s chief prosecutor opened a formal investigation into alleged war crimes in the Palestinian territories. Fatou Bensouda said the probe would cover events in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip since June 2014.

Following the October 7 atrocities, ICC Prosecutor Karim A. A. Khan KC visited Israel and Palestine. He said: “My visit to Israel was conducted at the request of family members and friends of Israeli citizens who were either killed or taken hostage by Hamas and other armed Palestinian groups on 7 October 2023. We must show that the law is there, on the front lines, and that it is capable of protecting all”.

1. Support South Africa in its decision to ask the International Court of Justice to rule on whether Israeli is carrying out genocide in Gaza.

On December 29, South Africa filed an application instituting proceedings against Israel concerning alleged violations by Israel of its obligations

under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in relation to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

1. Help reduce military action by suspending arms sales to Israel

In December, Palestinian human rights organisation Al-Haq and the UK-based Global Legal Action Network applied for a judicial review of the government's export licences for the sale of British weapons capable of being used in Israel's action in Gaza.

In recent years, sales have included components for military radars and targeting equipment, components for military support, combat aircraft, naval vessels and more.

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[Greens respond to Sunak legislation on Post Office scandal](#)



Green Party

10 January 2024

Reacting to Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's statement that new primary legislation will be introduced to exonerate convicted postmasters, Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

"It is incredible how long it has taken successive governments to address the clear injustice faced by hundreds of honest, hard-working people at the Post Office.

"It shouldn't take a TV drama to get the government to do the right thing to address a manifest injustice on this scale.

"The severity and scale of the scandal was likely made much worse by the economic model chosen for the Post Office – a public corporation with the government as the sole shareholder, that was told to chase profits and allowed to take risks with unproven, outsourced technology while Ministers washed their hands of responsibility.

“No one was in charge, no one cared and when it all went wrong, no-one was responsible. We need models of ownership that put the public interest and accountability first. The scandal also raises questions about the obsession from all government parties with outsourcing and avoiding responsibility.

“Of course, it is right that every wrongful conviction is overturned as quickly as possible, but the fact that the government has been forced into bringing forward emergency legislation that overrides the justice process just underlines how numerous Ministers let this tragedy drift on into a full-blown crisis.

“This is not the first time government has been found wanting when the lives of people have been turned upside down by failings in public administration. Too many people are still waiting for justice, from Grenfell residents to infected blood scandal victims, to nuclear test veterans.

“Every one of these injustices needs resolving as soon as possible.”

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[Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer reacts to the resignation of Tory environment champion Chris Skidmore:](#)



Green Party

5 January 2024

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer reacts to the resignation of Tory environment champion Chris Skidmore:

“As the world burns, the Tories turn in on themselves. The government’s green credentials are truly in tatters.

“The climate crisis is here and now and being experienced by people across the country, but the Prime Minister can’t hold on to anyone who has any good intentions toward the environment.

“Labour has to be held to account as well – it refused to block Rosebank and other new oil and gas licences. How long before Labour’s own green champions feel their principles are too compromised to continue?”

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[Green Party co-leader sets out party’s plan to achieve a fairer, greener country](#)



Green Party

4 January 2024

Green Party co-leader today set out plans for the year ahead.

Denyer said:

“As politicians go back to work in Westminster next week, most of the population have already been hard at work, dealing with the cost-of-living crisis and, perhaps, thinking – ‘Surely things could be a lot better than this?’

“With so much violence and destruction across the world it may seem odd to sound an optimistic note, but I do believe we really can do better than this.

“We can do better by working together to tackle the big challenges – around war, the environment and the cost of living.

“I feel hopeful because I’m part of a movement that is looking these troubles in the face and having the courage to choose peace, to choose justice, to choose life.

“At times like this, we need politicians with the courage to rise to the scale of the challenge.

“This year, the Green Party will continue to push politicians in other

parties for more action on the climate, more action on the housing crisis, and to do more to heal our sickly National Health Service. And we will be pressing all of them to bring our nature back to life.

“But this is likely to be a General Election year – and so we have the chance to send more Green MPs to Westminster to do the job themselves! To deliver a fairer, greener society for their constituents and the country as a whole.

“By voting Green, people can show they share our faith that the UK is a country of good, compassionate, talented people – and that together we can solve the problems facing us.

“Today, the country is being run for the benefit of a tiny number of people, who are growing richer and more powerful at the expense of the overwhelming majority.

“We can do better.

“We will invest properly in our public services and in the environment, transforming the tax system so that we end the decades where the rich have got richer and have avoided their responsibility to share their wealth.

“Our investments in people, in nature and in action on the climate will mean we all do better. They will build security for the future and create hundreds of thousands of skilled and well-paid jobs across the country.

“We can do better – together we can create a fairer, greener country.”

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[New Year message for 2024](#)



Green Party

30 December 2023

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“I am really looking forward to the year ahead. There is a General Election on the horizon and with it a chance to create a fairer, greener country – and

get more Green MPs elected to Parliament.

“2023 was a big year for the Green Party. Thanks to another set of record-breaking local election results in May, we now have more councillors than ever before – representing our communities with integrity and commitment.

“We continue to be the party standing for fairness – defending our environment and our democracy while standing up for the interests of people up and down the country in local communities.

“More and more people are telling us how much they want to come together and help build a fairer, greener country.

“More and more people are experiencing the Green Party in action. They see that we stand for and what we achieve in their communities and in Parliament. And that means more and more people are now proudly voting Green.

“2024 is going to be a momentous year for people and the planet. It’s time for action.”

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