

Greens become first political party in England and Wales to recognise Israeli government conduct as 'Apartheid' and 'Genocide'

The Green Party has voted at its Manchester conference to recognise the Israeli government as an "apartheid" state, as defined by international treaties such as the International Convention on Apartheid (1973) and Rome Statute (1998).

The conference also voted to recognise Israeli military operations in Gaza as a "genocide" as defined under the UN Genocide Convention (1948).

Ellie Chowns, Green Party MP for North Herefordshire, said: "We don't use terms like genocide or apartheid lightly, but they are a sad reflection of the atrocities being carried out by the Israeli State.

"This motion reflects International Humanitarian Law, including the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and it is essential that British political parties unequivocally uphold these basic minimum standards of international law."

The conference also reaffirmed support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

Ellie Chowns said: "We will only see an end to the escalating violence in the Middle East when there are clear incentives for all involved in the war in Gaza to agree to a ceasefire, the release of all hostages and an end to the occupation.

"We will press the UK government to step up its actions, including suspending all arms export licenses to Israel, and full co-operation with the actions of the international courts.

"Without an agreement, the intolerable death toll in Gaza will continue to rise, the hostages will be at greater risk and there will be an increased chance of sleepwalking into a larger regional war."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

The motion passed by Green Party conference reads:

Insert the following into our Record of Policy Statements

Recognise Israeli Regime as an "Apartheid" and Amend Policies for a Sustainable Society in the International Section following IP634:

The Green Party recognises and condemns Israel's policies as apartheid, based on international treaty and customary law, including, most notably, but not limited to:

- International Convention on Apartheid (1973) and Rome Statute (1998): Israel's practices, including extrajudicial killings, severe movement restrictions, discriminatory laws, and economic exploitation, align with apartheid definitions.
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (1965): Israel's racial segregation and discrimination violate this treaty, which Israel ratified in 1979.

We call for an end to all forms of apartheid and equal rights for all. The term "apartheid" accurately describes the institutionalised regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over another, as identified by international human rights bodies and legal experts.

- Recognise Israel's Genocide and Use the term "Genocide":

The Green Party condemns genocide per the UN Genocide Convention (1948):

- Acts qualifying as genocide: Israeli military operations causing civilian deaths, severe mental and physical harm, life conditions threatening Palestinian survival, and policies disrupting Palestinian family life and heritage.

As of 2024, the systematic violence and restrictions on Palestinians meet the criteria for genocide. This motion ensures our positions comply with international law and our commitment to justice and human rights.

- Affirm Green Party's Support for the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement:

The Green Party should have included its explicit support for the BDS Palestine Movement in the 2024 manifesto. We affirm our commitment to explicitly supporting BDS in our internal and external communications going forward. Supporting the BDS movement is essential to holding Israel accountable, to supporting Palestinians' rights to equality and self-determination, and to demonstrating that our support, as a nation, is not performative. Israel should not be able to profit from its apartheid regime or its unlawful occupation of Palestinian land. If the UK Government has learned anything from its failure to support BDS during South African Apartheid, it must be that the impact of applying political pressure is nothing without an economic response. Anti-apartheid promises are hollow if nothing is done to reform the institutions that fund apartheid regimes. The UK Government must not make the same mistakes again.

ENDS

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

The north must benefit from HS2 say Greens

Delegates at Green Party conference in Manchester have voted for HS2 to be funded and completed in full, including the entire Eastern leg and an underground through station at Manchester Piccadilly. The policy development comes as phase one of HS2 between London and Birmingham is well under construction.

Commenting on the revised Green Party policy, co-leader Carla Denyer MP, said:

“The Green Party has long supported the principle of a new north-south high-speed rail line but had serious concerns about the specific route of HS2 and the environmental impacts of this route.

“However, this first phase of HS2 between London and Birmingham is well under way and most of the environmental impacts of construction are already baked in. So this is a pragmatic decision by the Green Party. It moves us on.

“Crucially, we have also acknowledged that the northern leg of HS2 was always the most important in terms of tackling capacity issues on our railways as well as addressing regional inequalities. So the line must be completed in full.

“We also say loud and clear that our railways have to be built right – for habitats and wildlife, for local transport users, for affected neighbours and for government coffers. Greens will not support blank cheques or offer uncritical endorsement.

“We need to move at great speed to shift travel away from cars and flights to public transport. HS2, in full, can play an important role in achieving this shift.”

Green Party spokesperson on transport Councillor Matt Edwards, who is leader of the Green Group on Bradford Council, added:

“I am delighted that the Green Party conference has also backed Northern Powerhouse Rail, a high-speed rail line from Liverpool to Manchester and onwards to Bradford and Leeds and then the east coast. Successive governments have failed to invest in the rail network in the North of England and the Green Party have long advocated for the investment communities in the North deserve.

“Pollution and carbon emissions from transport remains stubbornly high. If we want to do something to address this, we need to invest in high-speed rail – but it has to be done right. Putting passengers and our planet at the heart

of the project.”

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

[Greens vote to oppose introduction of Freeports in the UK](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

The Green Party has voted to oppose the introduction of Freeports and Special Economic Zones across the United Kingdom at its annual party conference in Manchester.

Commenting Green Party Co-Leader Adrian Ramsay said: “There is no place for Freeports or Special Economic Zones in the United Kingdom. Their introduction will only serve to displace economic activity from elsewhere whilst reducing tax revenue that is so desperately needed for our broken public services. The lack of transparency in decision making and reductions in environmental, planning and employment legislation are all factors that should alarm every UK citizen.”

8 September 2024 / 8 September 2024 by [Green Party](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

[Green Party conference votes to ban greyhound racing](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

At their conference in Manchester, Green delegates today voted to support an immediate ban on greyhound racing and the use of the whip in horse racing. This is alongside a high compulsory levy to be imposed on all betting, to be used solely for welfare improvements, and a single regulatory authority to enforce animal welfare standards.

Co-leader Adrian Ramsay said:

“We are the first party to pledge to ban greyhound racing, a position supported by the RSPCA, Dog’s Trust, Blue Cross, and a majority of the public.

“Preventing greyhounds from being raced for the benefit of the betting industry and commercial gain would bring an end to the unnecessary deaths and suffering of these dogs.

“Approximately 200 horses die every year from horse racing [2]. Banning the use of the whip is a basic step for animal welfare. Equally the horse racing industry needs to answer how it will stop the shocking number of deaths it’s industry causes that no one wants to see.

“These measures would also help reduce the harm caused by problem gambling.”

8 September 2024 / 8 September 2024 by [Green Party](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)

[Greens castigate the Taliban’s treatment of women as a ‘crime against humanity’](#)

2. [Press Releases](#)

At its party conference in Manchester, the Greens have voted to support United Nations experts’ calls for the Taliban’s treatment of women to be recognised as a gender apartheid under international law and as a crime against humanity.

The party endorsed Amnesty International’s demands of the UK government to:

- Consult with women-led organisations in Afghanistan
- Support Afghan women’s rights activists
- Ensure that protecting women’s rights is non-negotiable with the Taliban
- Provide safe passage for Afghan women and girls seeking asylum in the UK.

Green Party co-leader Carla Denyer said:

“Since the Taliban’s 2021 takeover of Afghanistan, women have been

systematically erased from society, being ordered against leaving their homes without a male relative, banned from secondary education, and banned from working in most sectors.

“Last month, women were ordered to cover their entire bodies in public, banned from looking directly at men they are not related to, and banned from speaking in public. This is a humanitarian crisis, and the Green Party stands in solidarity with the 14 million women and girls trapped in this brutal gender apartheid.”

“Although the UK government does not recognise the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan, through the UK Mission to Afghanistan we have a unique opportunity to advocate for Afghan women. We must use this opportunity to provide both support for women-led organisations in Afghanistan and those seeking asylum.”

8 September 2024 / 8 September 2024 by [Green Party](#)

[Press Releases](#)

[Adblock test \(Why?\)](#)