

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."

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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.

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