



World YWCA – YWCA Palestine: Statement on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

On November 29th, the World YWCA and YWCA of Palestine join the global call to observe the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People. This date also commemorates UN General Assembly Resolution 181, which envisioned two states—one for Jewish people and one for Arab Palestinians.

Decades later, the issue of Palestine remains unresolved. Palestinians continue to fight for their inalienable rights: self-determination, sovereignty, the right to return to their homes, and the establishment of an independent state with secure borders. Despite countless UN resolutions, the crisis deepens with increasing displacement, home demolitions, and land confiscations to expand illegal settlements.

The International Day of Solidarity comes for the second year, during one of the darkest and hardest chapters in the history of the Palestinian people. In Gaza, a suffocating siege has persisted for over two decades, plunging its people into poverty and despair. Since October 7, 2023, the genocide recognized by the ICJ has led to devastating loss of life and displacement. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) “concluded that it is plausible that Israel's actions in Gaza Strip could amount to genocide and issued provisional measures, in which it ordered Israel to take all measures to prevent any acts contrary to the 1948 Genocide Convention”. Furthermore, on 19 July 2024, the ICJ reminded all states of their responsibilities. Its advisory opinion concluded that Israel’s continued occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory is unlawful and needs to end as soon as possible, including the cessation of any new settlement activities.

Tens of thousands have been killed or wounded, and most of Gaza’s 2.3 million residents have been forcibly displaced, with nowhere safe to go. Homes have been intentionally destroyed, and vital infrastructure—schools, hospitals, and places of worship—has been reduced to rubble. Diseases and famine, driven by the severe deprivation of food, water, and medication, are creating a humanitarian catastrophe, striking fear into the hearts of an exhausted population.

This dire humanitarian crisis calls for immediate and decisive global action. A recent Israeli law banning UNRWA operations in occupied areas further exacerbates the plight of Palestinian refugees, cutting off essential services to those in desperate need. The ICJ has reaffirmed that Israel’s occupation of Palestinian territories is unlawful and must end, urging states to act in line with international law.

This reality in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem, urges the international community, including not only States but also non-state actors such as businesses, to do everything they can to implement all these resolutions to end the Israeli apartheid and occupation of the Palestinian territory.



The World YWCA and YWCA of Palestine call on the international community and policymakers to:

1. Take immediate action to end the genocide in Gaza, protect civilians, and ensure unhindered humanitarian aid.
2. Provide protection, housing, and the right for displaced Palestinians to return to their original homes.
3. Support UNRWA in delivering vital services to Palestinian refugees.
4. End the Israeli occupation, hold Israel accountable for human rights violations, and work towards a sustainable, sovereign Palestinian state.
5. Pursue justice through mechanisms like the ICC and ICJ to ensure accountability.
6. Cease military aid to Israel and enforce economic measures to pressure compliance with international law.

We urge the United Nations to enforce its resolutions on Palestine and compel governments to uphold Palestinians' economic, political, social, and cultural rights.

The YWCA of Palestine and the World YWCA want to unequivocally emphasize that despite all these daunting realities and challenges, we uphold our hope and belief in the unwavering potential of youth and their active participation on local, national, and international levels to promote a just peace. Above all, we are devoted to instilling hope in their hearts and cultivating in them the core values essential to achieving freedom, justice, and peace for themselves, their communities, and the world at large.

Today and every day, let us stand in solidarity with the aspirations of the Palestinian people to achieve their inalienable rights and support them to build a future of peace, justice, security and dignity for all.