



## World YWCA and YWCA Palestine Joint Statement on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

On this International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, the World YWCA and the YWCA of Palestine join all who uphold the dignity, equality, and worth of every human being. November 29 is a reminder to the world that the ongoing colonial occupation of Palestine remains unresolved, and that the struggle for justice and freedom is far from over.

For decades, Palestinian men, women, and children have endured killings, displacement, loss, and systematic dehumanisation. Across generations, Palestinians have faced movement restrictions, arbitrary arrests, land confiscation, and the erasure of entire communities. And still, they embody “Sumoud” - resilience, faith, and the unwavering hope to live in dignity.

Today, this call for solidarity comes at a moment of unimaginable suffering. Gaza continues to endure one of the most devastating humanitarian crises in modern history. Despite repeated announcements of ceasefire efforts, the killing and destruction have not stopped. Entire families have been wiped out, and homes, infrastructure, and hospitals have been reduced to rubble.

Women and girls are bearing the disproportionate weight of this violence. Gender-based violence is being weaponised as a deliberate strategy of war. Reports have documented the systematic destruction of reproductive healthcare facilities and the targeting of maternity wards, acts intended to prevent births and destroy the reproductive future of a people. The use of forced public stripping, sexual harassment, and threats against Palestinian women is designed to inflict trauma and crush dignity.

At the same time, Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem face escalating attacks: home demolitions, land seizure, random arrests, movement restrictions, and violence carried out by settlers with military protection. What we are witnessing is a continuation of genocidal violence under military occupation. The world must no longer tolerate it.

The repeated failure to secure a permanent ceasefire exposes a painful truth: performative expressions of concern and temporary pauses in violence cannot save lives. True solidarity must extend beyond mere aid; it must be rooted in moral courage and a genuine commitment to justice.

From this place of faith and shared humanity, we appeal to the United Nations and all Member States:

1. To renew and strengthen efforts to end the ongoing suffering in Palestine, ensuring protection for all Palestinians, and guaranteeing unrestricted humanitarian access.



2. To uphold international law and all relevant UN resolutions affirming the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to self-determination and return to their homes and lands.
3. To safeguard and sustain the essential work of humanitarian agencies serving Palestinian refugees and communities.
4. To demand accountability for the gendered violence documented in this crisis, including forced stripping, sexual assault, and the deliberate destruction of the healthcare systems women rely on to give birth and survive.
5. To advance meaningful diplomatic and political measures that can end the occupation and open a path toward a just and lasting peace, including an immediate arms embargo and economic sanctions.
6. To ensure the implementation of International Court of Justice decisions, holding perpetrators of war crimes and genocide accountable, and ensuring that no state or leader, whether acting directly or indirectly, escapes responsibility.

As one of the world's oldest and largest women's movements, we reaffirm our unwavering commitment to peace built on justice, equality, and human dignity. We believe that faith without action is empty, and that hope, when nurtured with courage, can transform even the darkest night into the dawn of a new day.

This Day of Solidarity, we renew our collective determination to see the Palestinian people live in freedom, dignity, safety, and peace. As a global movement committed to justice and human rights, we stand in steadfast solidarity with the Palestinian people and their ongoing struggle for liberation.

