

We are Jews who are horrified by Israel's actions in Gaza, and feel that we must set the record straight: Israel is not defending itself, it is committing genocide; **No ethno-state will ever keep Jews safe, Israel does not stand for the Jewish people, Zionism is not Judaism.** We stand in solidarity with Palestinian people in calling for an immediate ceasefire, and an end to the occupation. We will not allow our Jewish identities to be weaponised against Gazans. We do not condone Israel's vengeful killing of civilians in Gaza. Not in our name.

This morning we hold Shacharit, the Jewish morning prayer service here in St Pancras, in protest at the co-optation of our spiritual practices by violent colonial forces. Although Zionism started as a secular movement, it now lays claim to the entirety of Judaism. We can see this in Netanyahu's usage of Amalek, and we reject this attempt to justify genocide with biblical precedent. Our liturgy is built on a refusal to translate the longing for Eretz Israel into bloody historical reality. **We are reclaiming our Judaism.**

Antisemitism is a vile ideology of hate that we condemn with every breath. We root our struggle against anti-semitism in solidarity with all oppressed peoples. Zionism is entirely consistent with European antisemitism: the mass exodus of the Jews from the European continent, turning them into the footsoldiers of European colonialism. **The war mongering Zionist project makes the world less safe for Jews the world over** by muddying the waters between actual hate of the Jewish people and legitimate resistance to apartheid, ethnic cleansing, military occupation and genocide.

Gaza has been under military occupation for 56 years. For the past 16 years Gaza has been subject to a blockade that means Israel controls their supply of food, water, and electricity. Israel has initiated a total communications blackout and plunged Gaza into darkness, while they bomb civilian homes, hospitals and refugee camps. People are starving to death because Israel is not allowing basic necessities such as food, water and medicines into the region. Intentional starvation is a crime against humanity according to international law. UN human rights experts have said, "We are sounding the alarm: There is an ongoing campaign by Israel resulting in crimes against humanity in Gaza." **The head of the New York office of UNCHR said this is a "textbook case of genocide".**

The UK government continues to sell arms to Israel. The UK abstained from voting on a UN resolution to call for a ceasefire, and Rishi Sunak's recent visit to Israel reinforced his intentions to support the Israeli government to commit crimes against humanity.

**The UK government continues to be complicit in this ruthless slaughter.**

Killing civilians is never justified. On October 7th, Hamas killed Israeli citizens: some of us have family who were killed. **We are grieving, but we will not allow our grief to be used to justify the killing of civilians in Gaza. No peace will ever come without justice, and the only way to end the violence is an end to the occupation.** We call for an immediate ceasefire, for aid to be allowed into Gaza, and for an end to the military occupation of Palestine and a meaningful process of justice for Palestinians. Never again means never again for anyone.