

# Palestine, Israel and the British

New research findings on the views of the British public  
on the war in Gaza and solutions to the wider conflict

**UKPAN**



UKPAN is an independent, multidisciplinary organisation of UK-based Palestinians advocating for Palestinian rights and self-determination.

The organisation seeks to bring together Palestinian-British citizens from a range of backgrounds to contribute to the formation of UK policy regarding Palestine. Ultimately, it seeks solutions that secure peace and justice in Palestine, and for the Palestinian diaspora.

## Acknowledgments

The UKPAN team would like to thank Accountable Media, the Balfour Project, Antoine Mattar, Ali Gokal and many others who have contributed in various ways to make this report possible and supporting this crucial project.



Accountable Media is a platform to enable citizens to report misinformation and bias in mainstream media, leveraging the power of community to enhance pressure on broadcasters and publishers to report fairly and impartially on Palestine.  
[www.accountable-media.com](http://www.accountable-media.com)



Balfour Project: Peace with justice, security and equal rights for Palestinians and Israelis

Through education and advocacy, we work to advance equal rights for all in Palestine/Israel, regardless of race or creed, and achieve greater public awareness of Britain's current and historic responsibilities in this regard.

We seek to persuade the British Parliament and Government to demand that the rule of law and fundamental human rights, including the right to self-determination and implementation of international law, are upheld.  
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# Background and context

## The war on Gaza has galvanised public sentiment since October 7, 2023.

Since October, marches have taken place almost every weekend across the UK with feelings running high – more so than for any conflict since the 2003 Iraq War. Daily news coverage of horrific scenes in Gaza, escalating settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank, and prosecutions against Israel by international law courts have all acted as an influence on British public opinion.

The war has also translated directly into the domestic political domain, with impacts across the spectrum.

While it was not a core topic during the recent General Election, it influenced the results in a number of seats – especially those with high proportions of Muslim voters.

Since the election, the new Labour Government has started to take measures that are more compliant with international law, as opposed to the previous Government's overly biased position in favour of Israel. This has included resuming funding of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), dropping the previous government's objections to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) prosecutions of Israeli officials, and an initial pause in arms sales to Israel, pending a wider review of their legality.

The results from this survey, which was commissioned by the UK Palestine Affairs Network (UKPAN), provide an important set of insights for British policy makers on how they can contribute to securing peace, and tackle the ongoing, twin tragedies in Gaza and the West Bank.

### Research methodology

UKPAN commissioned a survey of a representative sample of 2,980 adults across Great Britain (England, Scotland, and Wales) randomised by gender, age and region. The survey was conducted on 9-11 June by Find Out Now, a member, and abiding by the rules, of the Market Research Society and British Polling Council.

While conducted in June, the fundamentals influencing the results have not changed and therefore it is highly unlikely key results will have evolved. The poll was conducted after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory opinion on Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

The poll preceded the ICC's chief prosecutor's application to the court for the issuance of arrest warrants against three leaders in Hamas and the Israeli Prime Minister and his Defence Minister. It was also conducted before the ICJ's second interim order on halting Israel's Rafah offensive.

The full survey data is available on request.

# Near half of British population disengaged on Palestine / Gaza

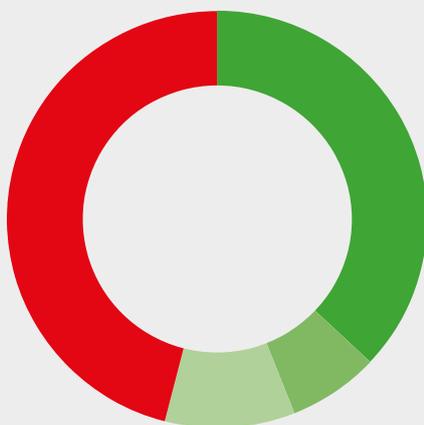
# 50%

of people in the UK are engaged and knowledgeable on Israel-Palestine

However, large proportions of the sample of the British public did not provide a definitive view to questions. On many questions, nearly 1 in 2 answered 'don't know'.

When assessing this group, we find a population that is less engaged generally with politics and with foreign affairs.

## Are you following the news about Gaza?



**38%**

Yes, through mainstream media (e.g. BBC, Daily Mail, The Guardian)

**7%**

Yes, through alternative media

**10%**

Yes, through social media

**46%**

No

Detailed regression analysis of this population of recurring 'don't knows' shows a lack of engagement with the topic in the media. Nearly half of all survey participants said they have not been following the news about Gaza. This population correlates closely with those who answered questions 'don't know'.

## An assessment of those who have not been following the news about Gaza shows other characteristics of a part of the population who are politically disengaged:

- 60% don't watch ANY news on TV, and 52% do not have a preferred newspaper
- 71% of those who have not been following the news about Gaza did not vote in the 2024 General Election

## Implications for the results

When reviewing the results of this survey, we need to factor in the high proportion who are not aware of the news in Gaza, are unfamiliar with either developments, the context or, indeed, some of the terminology being used.

For accuracy, we have reported on all the results without removing the 'don't knows', while also highlighting the proportions of respondents who did take a view on questions.

# Headlines

The results show a British public that is increasingly convinced that Israel's war in Gaza breaks international law, includes genocidal acts by its military and disregards the need to minimise civilian casualties.

## Key findings include:

The results include the proportion overall (including the 'don't knows') and the proportion excluding them (in bold).

42%

do not believe that Israel is fighting in self-defence **(66%)**

43%

believe it is fair to say that **Israel is committing acts that amount to genocide (71%)**

44%

believe it is fair to say that **Israel is breaking international law** in the way it is conducting the war **(71%)**

48% and 45%

respectively believe that Israel's blockade of Gaza since 2007 and the long-running oppression of the Palestinian people act as contextual reasons for the current war

44%

believe that **Israel does not try to minimise civilian casualties (73%)**

**The British also want its government to take firmer action and place greater pressure on Israel.**

- Excluding 'don't knows', **81% want the UK Government to take a more neutral stance (48%)** or a more pro-Palestinian one **(33%)** in its handling of the conflict
- **45% believe that the UK Government could do more to pressure Israel** to avoid civilian casualties **(79%)**
- **47% (84%) want the UK to officially recognise the State of Palestine**, with 32% **(57%)** wanting it to do so immediately
- **40% say that the UK should stop arms sales to Israel (69%)**
- **52% say that the UK should prosecute British citizens who commit war crimes while fighting in the Israeli army (83%)**

**Action by the UK on Israeli war crimes and settler terrorism is wanted by the British public.**

- A majority (52%) want any UK soldiers fighting for Israel and those suspected of being implicated in war crimes should be prosecuted when they return to the UK **(83%)**
- 35% say that the UK should sanction individuals involved in settlement expansion **(70%)**

**Those who voted Labour in 2024 make some of the strongest calls for action on Palestine. On most questions, two in three Labour supporters take positions that are pro-Palestinian's rights. Under 10% took positions supporting Israel's war, with the remaining c20% being 'don't knows'.**

This includes calling for state recognition of Palestine and stopping arms sales to Israel. Two in three Labour supporters also believe that Israel is breaking international law, committing acts that amount to genocide – and large numbers want the prosecutions of Israeli leaders by international courts backed by the Labour government.

# Implications for UK policy

## As we approach the first anniversary of the war on Gaza, UKPAN believes there is an urgent need to look anew at the bias in the UK for Israel and against the Palestinians.

Although ongoing for many years, this particular war has a critical edge to it. With no sign of cessation, action is direly needed which is not helped by a historically partial UK political agenda.

Early action by the new Labour government shows a shift in tone and substance. But further action is required.

The question is how far Labour will move towards more balance in its approach to Palestine. To what extent will it place meaningful pressure on Israel to curb violent attacks and theft of land in the West Bank? What action will the UK government take to pressure Israel in allowing in major aid to Gaza? What will the Government be able to do to help create the conditions for sustainable, just peace in Palestine and Israel?

**The results of the survey show that large proportions of the British public, and especially big majorities of Labour supporters, want the Government to:**

- **Demonstrate compliance with international law**, supporting action taken by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ)
- **Officially recognise the State of Palestine**, with many wanting that undertaken immediately
- **More strictly control or completely stop arms sales to Israel**
- **Take more stringent and wider economic action against Israeli settlements**
- **Take wider-scale legal and other action against settler groups, settlers and their supporters, especially those who commit violent acts of terrorism, and against those who promote or condone them**

Labour MPs, especially those with large Muslim communities and / or marginal seats, will be acutely aware of the need to act on these issues. Labour supporters (and their representatives in the UK Parliament) will be scrutinising the Government's actions to ensure it shifts further in substance.

The early signs are hopeful. But more action will be needed to convince large proportions of the British public that the UK is taking a more even-handed approach on Palestine and Palestinian rights, guided by international law, and with the genuine interests of civilians and occupied communities at the heart of its policy making as well as a desire for a lasting, just peace to this near-century old conflict.

Section 1

# The Gaza conflict

# A war of self-defence?

**The British public does not believe that Israel is ‘fighting in self-defence’ by a factor of around 2 to 1.**

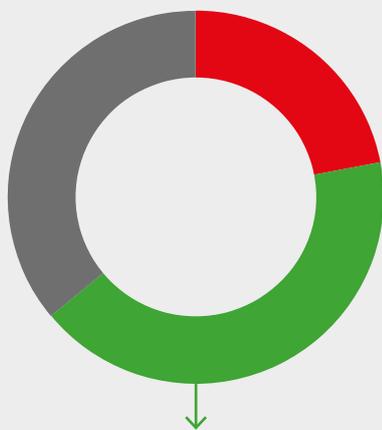
- Only 21% agreed with the assertion that Israel is fighting a war of self-defence,
- Near double that (42%) disagreed – 67% excluding ‘don’t knows’. This suggests that a large proportion of the British public treat the claim with scepticism.
- Only 38% said ‘Don’t know’, a low number compared to other questions in the survey.

## Background to and interpretation of the results

The questions of self-defence and a “just war” have come up in regard to Israel’s attack on Gaza. Supporting this position is that Hamas’ attack on 7 October created a reason to retaliate within the diktat of international law, creating moral justification for Israel’s response.

However, for many, Israel has taken significantly disproportionate action with such destructive force that the arguments of self-defence have become far less convincing. For others, the strength of Israel’s armed forces puts into question the line that this is a war between equal actors. This is underpinned by awareness among many of Israel’s long-running occupation of the West Bank and blockade of Gaza.

## Additional results

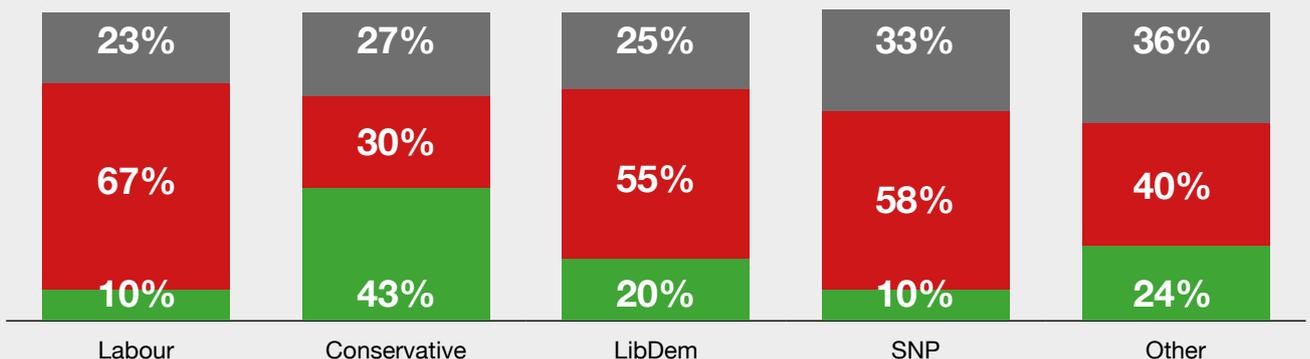


**Thinking of the conflict in Gaza today, do you believe Israel are fighting in self-defence?**

**22%** Yes  
**42%** No  
**36%** Don't know

**Proportion of party supporters who do not believe Israel is fighting in self-defence**

Key: ■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know



# A genocide in front of everyone's eyes

The perception that Israel's action in Gaza equate to 'genocide' has gained significant traction in the UK – with more than two in five believing it is fair to label Israel's actions as amounting to genocide.

- 43% answered that it is fair (very fair, 27%) or (somewhat fair, 15%) to say that Israel is committing acts amounting to genocide – in total, 71% excluding 'don't knows'.
- Only 18% said it was unfair (of which 11% said it is very unfair)
- 39% chose 'Don't know'.

## Background to and interpretation of the results

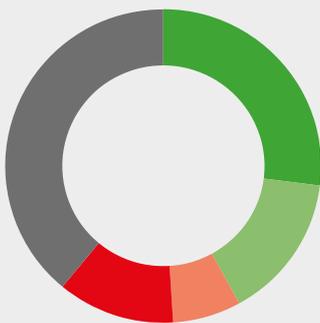
Last year, South Africa took Israel to the ICJ, saying their campaign in Gaza has been 'genocidal in intent', which the ICJ ruled that it there is serious risk that the acts being committed might amount to genocide.

Since then the term "genocide" has taken hold among those protesting the war on Gaza, and its use is supported by organisations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Israeli NGO B'Tselem, who have also accused Israel of implementing policies that amount to apartheid.

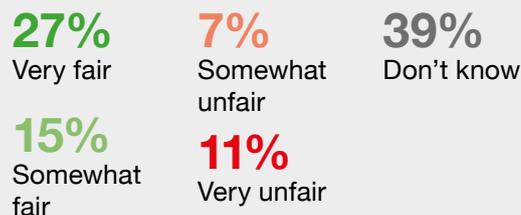
Palestinians often suggest the word 'genocide' is important to the understanding of what is going on in Gaza. Israel often responds that the term is wrong because its military actions aim not to indiscriminately kill Gaza's population, but are undertaken in self-defence and targeted at Hamas.

As with the term 'apartheid', the word 'genocide' has been widely used and contested in the context of Palestine.

## Additional results

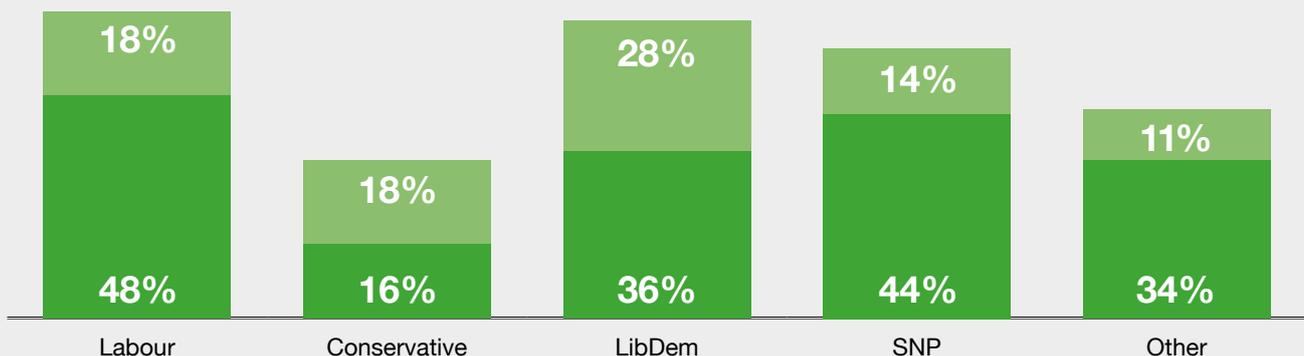


### That Israel is committing acts amounting to genocide in Gaza



### By party support

Key: ■ Very fair ■ Somewhat fair



# An illegal war

**The prosecutions and actions against Israel in international law courts have created a prevalent view that is Israel is breaking international law – two in five of the British public feel it is fair to say that.**

- 44% answered that it is fair (very fair, 30%) or (somewhat fair, 14%) to say that Israel is breaking international law in this current war – in total, 73% excluding ‘don’t knows’.
- 16% said it was unfair (of which 9% said it is very unfair)
- 40% chose ‘Don’t know’.

In addition, there is belief among a large section of the British public (35%) that the West applies different standards of international law to Israel as it does to other countries. Less than half of that figure, 16%, believe that the West applies the same standards.

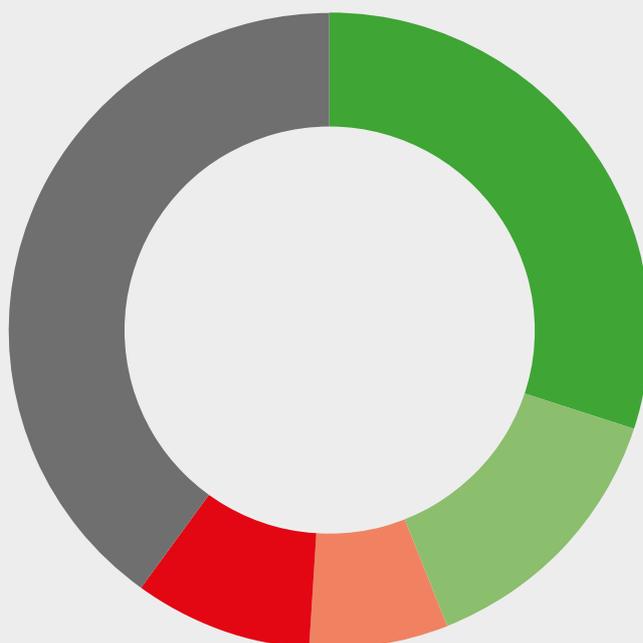
## Background to and interpretation of the results

When excluding those who answered ‘don’t know’, it is clear that a substantial majority of those with a view on this matter consider Israel’s prosecution of the war on Gaza to be in breach of international law. This is against the backdrop of the ICJ’s second interim order demanding that Israel halts its offensive on Rafah, having already failed to comply with the first interim order issued by the ICJ in January 2024, and the ICC chief prosecutor’s application for arrest warrants for three leaders in Hamas and the Israeli Prime Minister and his Defence Minister.

It is important to note that the results above precede the ICJ’s advisory opinion on the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, which confirmed a long-held legal position that Israel’s actions against the Palestinian are in breach of international law, and that it is incumbent on the international community not to recognise its occupation of post-1967 Palestine, and actively work to end it.

This puts pressure on the new Labour Government to take heed both to public opinion and its own international law obligations.

## Additional results



### The proportion of the British public who say Israel is breaking international law in this current war

<b>30%</b> Very fair	<b>7%</b> Somewhat unfair	<b>40%</b> Don't know
<b>14%</b> Somewhat fair	<b>9%</b> Very unfair	

# Counting the civilian casualties

The numbers of Palestinian civilian casualties, especially women and children, speak for themselves. That is borne out by this survey’s finding that over two in five do not believe that Israel tries to minimize civilian casualties.

- 44% believe that Israel “does not try to minimise civilian casualties” – with only 18% saying that it does. This equates to 71% excluding the ‘don’t knows’ (38%)
- In addition, 32% believe that “Israel intentionally kills Palestinian civilians” – with 22% disagreeing, and 45% not knowing. This equates to 60% excluding ‘don’t knows’.

## Background to and interpretation of the results

It is known that at least over 40,000 Palestinians have been reported as killed in Gaza since the start of Israel’s war on Palestine in October 2023. A revised estimate published in June 2024 within The Lancet journal said that it was not implausible to estimate that up to 186,000, or 8% of Gaza’s population, or more deaths could be attributable to the current war on Gaza. Moreover, over 640 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli settlers or Israeli armed forces in the West Bank during the same period.

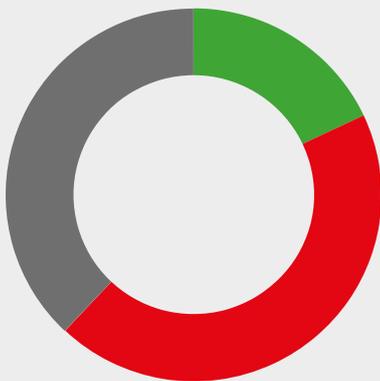
Some argue that Israel conducts indiscriminate attacks that lead to high civilian casualties, while Israel counters it only attacks military targets and aims to minimise civilian casualties. It blames Hamas for embedding in civilian areas, and thus seeks to discharge the blame for the deaths of Palestinians onto the Palestinians.

There is also a concern among many in the international community that not only does Israel not try to minimise civilian casualties, but is intentionally killing Palestinian civilians, inter alia, to exact revenge for October 7. This perception is exacerbated by the actions of specific individuals and units within in the Israeli army and the Israeli government, as recorded by the media, and on social media (in many circumstances by themselves).

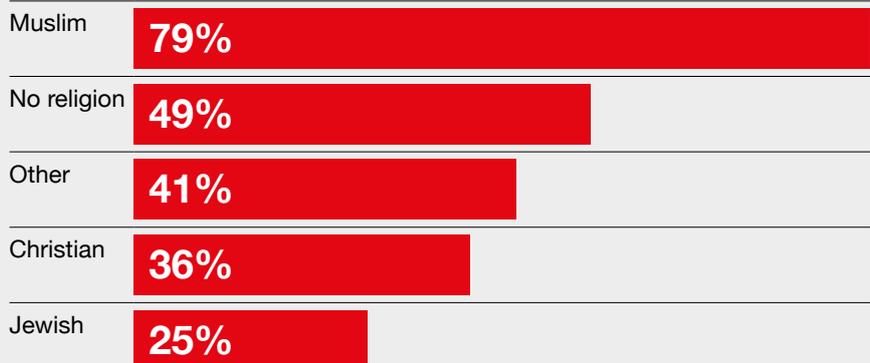
## Additional results

### Israel tries to minimise civilian casualties

**18%** Yes    **44%** No    **38%** Don’t know



### Israel does not try to minimise civilian casualties



Section 2

# The wider conflict in Palestine

# Israel – an ‘apartheid’ state?

In addition to questions on Gaza, the survey asked about the British public’s views on Israeli governance and actions in the West Bank, and within its own (pre-1967) borders.

**Israel’s actions in the West Bank and within its own borders are feeding a growing view that it is now, in effect, operating an apartheid system of governance. Three in ten believe it is fair to say that Israel is an apartheid state.**

- 34% of the British public believe it is fair to say that Israel is implementing apartheid – equating to 64% excluding the ‘don’t knows’.
- Only 19% believe it is unfair – of which 11% believe it ‘very unfair’.
- A high proportion (53%) stated that they don’t know – reflecting, in some cases, a lack of certainty or understanding of what an apartheid state means.

## Background to and interpretation of the results

The matter of whether Israel should be considered an apartheid state arouses fierce debate.

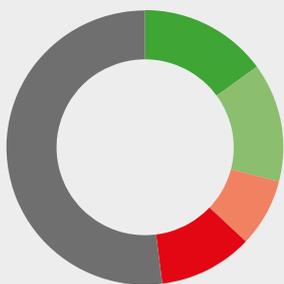
The term, which originated in South Africa to denote constitutional racial segregation, has been widely applied in Israel, which many believe operates an apartheid system over the whole of the territories of Israel.

On the Israeli side, it is argued that it cannot be considered apartheid akin to the old South African system and Israel’s 2m-plus Palestinian population is often cited to counteract this notion.

However, Israel’s two-tier legal system, and that Israelis have rights and privileges which Israeli-Palestinians do not receive (as well as wider institutional discrimination and systematic oppression based on race), are hard recorded facts. The ICJ advisory opinion provides a very clear position on the apartheid nature of Israel’s occupation in the West Bank. This conclusion has also been provided by B’Tselem, Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.

It is also much harder to refute the allegation of an apartheid system in the West Bank, where two legal systems run side by side in the same territory, and in self-governing but blockaded Gaza it is seen as a system of separation akin to a South African Bantustan.

## Additional results

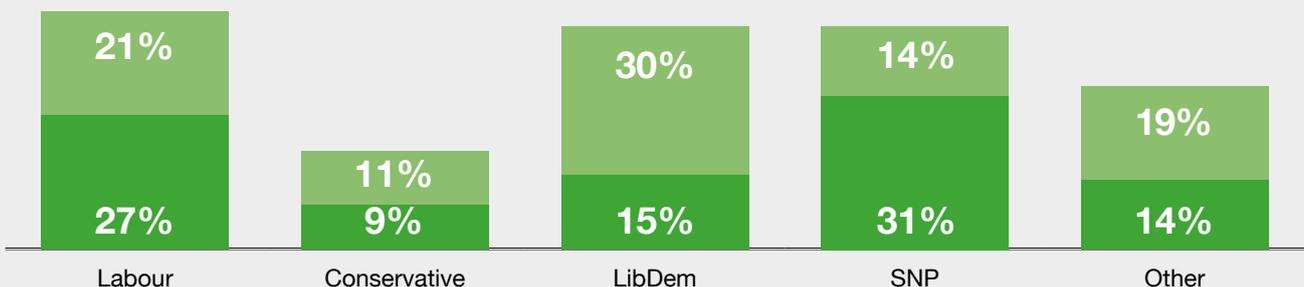


### Israel is an apartheid state

15% Very fair  
 14% Somewhat fair  
 8% Somewhat unfair  
 11% Very unfair  
 53% Don't know

### By party support

Key: ■ Very fair ■ Somewhat fair



# The causes and background to the conflict

## The war in Gaza is part of the wider Israel-Palestine conflict which has been ongoing for many decades.

There are various historical contexts which people reference when discussing it. The survey wanted to interrogate this context by asking respondents which historical aspects are seen as relevant to the current conflict.

### Factors most commonly seen as being relevant to current conflict are:

- The Israeli blockade of Gaza (fully controlling its land, sea and air borders, and blocking the movement of people and goods) ongoing since 2007 (48%)
- The oppression of Palestinians prior to the current conflict, such as violence in the occupied West Bank (507 Palestinians killed in 2023) and, by pre-October 7 estimates, 3,660 Palestinians being held in Israeli prisons without charge, including 200 children, (45%)
- The occupation of the Palestinian West Bank by Israel since 1967, the creation of Israeli settlements there (illegal under international law), and their expansion with over 100 Israeli settlements and up to 700,000 Israeli settlers (44%)
- The 'Nakba', where 750,000 Palestinian Arabs were expelled from their homes when Israel was established in 1948, and the depopulation of hundreds of historic Palestinian Arab towns and villages (39%)

These are, in effect, seen as the historical root causes and triggers for the current conflict.

The findings suggest that there has been a breakdown of the previous perceptions. 'Blame' is increasingly placed on Israel's shoulders for the continuation of the wider, long-running conflict.

The 'origin story' of Israel and the displacement of local populations has been well documented and is still widely recognised as relevant by the survey's respondents.

However, acknowledging the needs of the Palestinian people, from Gaza to the West Bank, shows increasing sympathy and relevance to their needs, and the current conflict is seen by many as a result of historic Israeli aggression.

Section 3

# The British Government's role and response

# A more balanced approach is wanted

**The British public saw the previous Conservative Government as being more supportive of Israel. They want their Government to take a more neutral or pro-Palestinian position is required.**

- 36% believe that the previous UK Government was ‘more supportive of Israel’ against just 6% who felt it was ‘more supportive of Palestine’. Only 15% felt the Government took a ‘neutral position’.
- When asked what a future Government should do, only 12% felt that the UK should be more supportive of Israel, with 21% saying it should be more supportive of Palestine. 31% want to see a more neutral position.
- 45% of the British public also believe that the UK Government could do more to pressure Israel to avoid civilian casualties. Only 12% believe the UK could not do more to exert the pressure needed. 43% do not know.

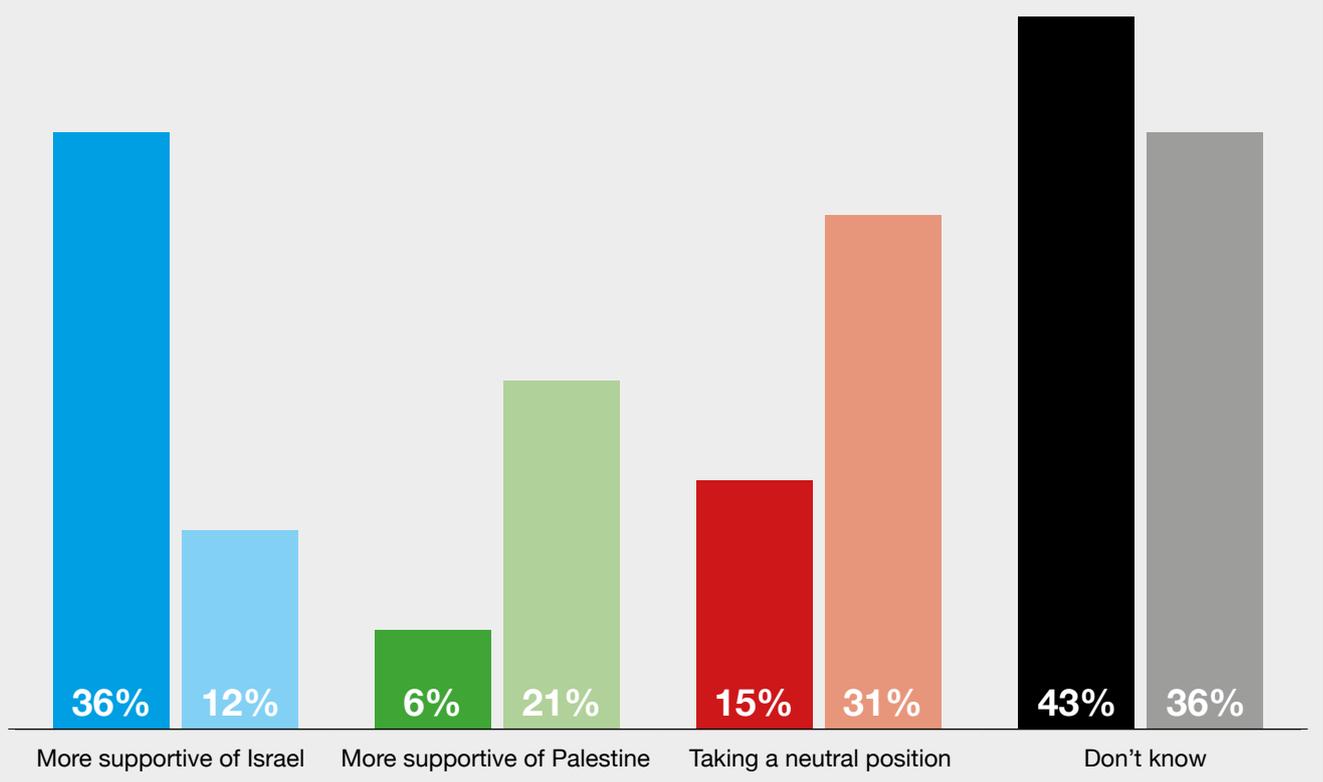
## Background to and interpretation of the results

That the UK Government’s attitude to Israel is generally supportive reflects its historic colonial role in the region, with the Mandate for Palestine that followed World War I and the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and the Balfour Declaration of 1917.

Yet within the UK there has also long been sympathy for the Palestinians. That support has seemingly grown significantly since the start of the current Gaza war.

## Additional results

**Key:** ■ Historic government position ■ Which should it take in the future



# Recognition of the state of Palestine

**As part of the debate on the current situation in Gaza, and Palestine more widely, there is a strong mandate from the British public for recognising an independent, sovereign Palestinian state.**

- 47% believe that the UK should officially recognise a Palestinian state – including 32% who say that this should be done immediately. Excluding ‘don’t knows’, the proportion backing state recognition equates to a very large 83% of the British population.
- Only 10% of the British public say that the UK should not officially recognise a Palestinian state, with 43% saying they don’t know.

### Background to and interpretation of the results

The UK officially supports a ‘two-state solution’ for the Israel-Palestine conflict, where an independent State of Palestine would exist alongside the State of Israel.

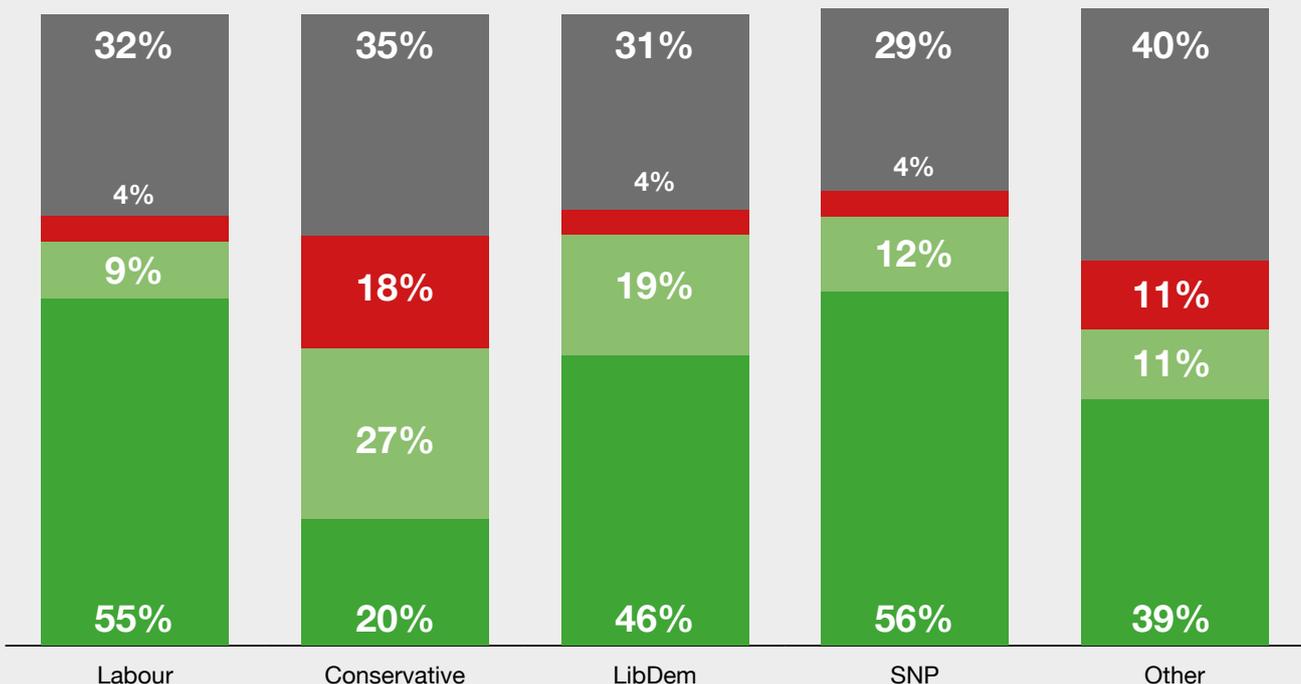
While three-quarters of United Nations member states recognise the State of Palestine, as do Western European countries of Spain, Ireland and Norway, others such as the US, France and Germany do not.

The UK has, to date, not officially recognised a Palestinian state. However, the new Labour Government placed state recognition in its manifesto, backing it as a contribution to the peace process and as part of a two-state solution. There is ambiguity as to what that means in terms of timings. As shown in the results to this survey, Labour’s ‘in time’ position on state recognition is dissonant with the view of a large proportion of the British public.

### Additional results

#### Party supporter views on state recognition of State of Palestine

Key: ■ Should immediately ■ Should eventually ■ Should not ■ Don’t know



# Stopping arms to Israel

**Given the controversy over Israel's use of western military supplies on civilian targets, two in five are clear that the UK should stop arms sales to Israel.**

- 40% believe that the UK should stop arms sales to Israel – 69% excluding 'don't knows'
- Only 18% saying that it should continue arms sales. 42% do not know.

## Background to and interpretation of the results

Protests outside arms manufacturer Elbit Systems and against arts sponsor Baillie Gifford (via Babcock International) have thrown the spotlight on attitudes towards UK arms sales to Israel.

Although by no means the biggest client to British arms manufacturers, since 2008 the UK has licensed – and permitted exports of – arms sales worth over £574 million to Israel.

In early August, the new UK Government paused sales of some weapons to Israel pending a fuller legal review.

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# International law and British complicity with Israel

**Given the accusations of breaking international law, some argue that diplomatic support for and sales of weapons to Israel, could make the UK complicit of war crimes. Three in ten of the British public believe this to be a risk.**

- 30% believe that UK would be complicit of war crimes if it continues to sell arms and giving diplomatic support to Israel following ICC / ICJ rulings on Israel's violations of international law – 56% when excluding 'don't knows'
- 24% do not believe the UK would be complicit, with nearly half (46%) not knowing

## Background to and interpretation of the results

Israel has been accused (including at the ICJ) of international humanitarian law violations in its military operations in Gaza and Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant suspected of committing war crimes by the ICC.

Some say that due to the UK selling weapons and giving diplomatic support to Israel, the UK would find itself complicit in the events of war crimes being committed.

# Prosecuting UK-based ‘war criminals’

**Given a number of UK citizens have volunteered to fight in the Israeli army in Gaza, there is a clear majority in favour of prosecuting any who have been involved in Israeli war crimes.**

- 52% believe that any UK citizens who have fought for Israel and are suspected of involvement in war crimes, should be prosecuted when they go back to the UK – a very solid 83% when excluding ‘don’t knows’
- 11% say they should not be prosecuted, with 37% not knowing.

## Background to and interpretation of the results

The question of war crimes, and potential prosecutions arising from them, brings up the theme of double standards. While the Foreign Enlistment Act of 1870 makes it an offence for a British subject to enlist in the military of a foreign state at war with another foreign state with which the UK is at peace, this does not appear to apply to UK citizens serving in the Israeli military.

It has been reported that a minimum of 100 UK citizens have volunteered to fight in the Israeli army in its war in Gaza which the ICJ decided was plausible that it is committing war crimes.

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# Providing practical medical support

**A majority of the British public wants to see practical support for Palestinian children who need medical treatment as a result of the war in Gaza.**

- 51% believe that the UK government should allow Palestinian children from Gaza to come to the UK to get medical treatment.
- Only 14% disagreed, with 35% not knowing.

## Background to and interpretation of the results

The situation with medical aid in Gaza is parlous. There are many children in Gaza in need of urgent medical care, who cannot receive it due to the ongoing conflict.

In June 2024, three British charities, Project Pure Hope, Save A Child and Gaza Families Reunited, have written to the UK government asking for approval for children from Gaza to come to the UK for specialist treatment. They say the money has already been raised for their travel and treatment; that their stay would only be temporary, and that other European countries have already started similar initiatives to help Palestinian children in Gaza.

With the situation on the ground worse than ever, Israel having destroyed all major hospitals in the area, and Israel continuing to block medical supplies to enter Gaza in any meaningful numbers, the medical needs of Gaza children is at crisis point. This is exacerbated by the spread of diseases caused by starvation and the lack of sanitation in displacement camps, most recently with outbreak of polio, the first such occurrence in 25 years.

# Action on settlers in the West Bank

## Twice as many British respondents believed that the UK should sanction those involved in the expansion of Israeli settlements.

- 35% believe that the UK should sanction individuals involved in the expansion of settlements – 70% when excluding ‘don’t knows’. 15% disagree. A high proportion say they do not know (50%).
- Asked how the UK can place pressure on Israel regarding its actions and those of settlers in the West Bank, members of the British public provided a range of options. Large numbers said that the UK should: end all arms sales to Israel (33%), withhold government funding to organisations complicit of breaking international law (32%), enforce ICC arrest warrants (28%), prosecute UK companies complicit with breaking international law (25%), ban goods from settlements (24%) and implement wider, economic sanctions on Israel (21%).

### Background to and interpretation of the results

Over 100 Israeli settlements with up to 700,000 Israeli settlers have been established in the West Bank and are regarded as illegal under international law.

While Gaza has been a main focus of news coverage and public consciousness, the situation in the West Bank (occupied by Israel since 1967) has also been extremely tense, featuring attacks against Palestinians by the Israeli settlers (often with the support and protection of the Israeli army) and repeated incursions by the Israeli military into almost every major city and town in the West Bank.

Since October 2023, there has been a significant increase in attacks on Palestinians in the West Bank – with well over 1,000 recorded since October 2023. Life in the West Bank has become even more challenging for Palestinians as a result of this significant increase in violent attacks by settlers. As a result of these and Israeli army attacks, over 600 have been killed in the West Bank since October 2023.

# Labour government willed on to take action on Palestine by its supporters

**Some of the strongest support for Palestine and action against Israel's military operations in Gaza is found among those who voted Labour in 2024. The results for Labour voters in 2024 AND 2019 are very similar – showing that even those who switched from Conservative, SNP and other parties to Labour in 2024 have take a position of overwhelming support for Palestinian rights.**

In summary, both in 2019 and 2024, approximately two in three Labour supporters take pro-Palestinian positions on many of the questions in the survey. Pro-Israel positions secure backing among fewer than in one in ten Labour supporters.

## 67% of Labour supporters:

- do not believe Israel is fighting a war of self-defence
  - believe that Israel does not try to minimize civilian casualties
  - believe it is fair to say Israel is breaking international law
  - believe that the UK government could do a lot more to pressure Israel to do more to stop civilian casualties in Gaza
- Under 10% take pro-Israeli positions to the above questions. The remainder (c20-25%) do not know.

## Wider feedback shows strong support for Palestine

- 66% believe it is fair to say that Israel is committing acts amounting to genocide, with only 7% saying it is unfair
- 65% say that UK arms sales to Israel should be stopped, with only 7% disagreeing
- 64% back the recognition of a Palestinian state, including 55% who believe that this should be done immediately. Only 4% of Labour supporters do not believe the Government should officially recognize the State of Palestine.

### Background to and interpretation of the results

Within weeks of taking office, the new Labour Government has started to take action that addresses some of its supporters' views on Palestine. It has re-instated funding to UNRWA and dropped the previous Government's objection to ICC prosecution of Israeli leaders. It has also taken tentative steps on arms sales to Israel, with more clarity on future sales likely to be announced in the coming months.

The results of this survey show strong support for further action on Palestine by the new UK Government. This follows on from the General Election, where Labour lost over 600,000 votes from Britain's Muslim communities and other members of its historic coalition of support. This contributed to the loss (or near loss) of once safe seats.

Among other actions it needs to take in those communities, demonstrating a more balanced and more pro-Palestinian stance through its action will be key to rebuilding support. Another key focus in the coming months will also be on its position regarding State recognition.



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