



## North London Council of Mosques

### **The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP**

Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office  
King Charles Street  
London SW1A 2AH

05<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Foreign Secretary,

### **URGENT:** Israel's Ban on 37 Aid Agencies and the Collapse of Humanitarian Infrastructure in Gaza

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the North London Council of Mosques (NLCoM), representing a significant consortium of mosques and Muslim communities across North London. We are writing to express our profound outrage at the Israeli government's [announcement this week](#) to ban 37 international aid organisations from operating in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including vital agencies such as ActionAid, Caritas, International Rescue Committee and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

This directive is not merely an administrative hurdle; it is a calculated continuation of Israel's systematic dismantling of humanitarian infrastructure. By criminalising the very organisations keeping Palestinians alive, this move accelerates what leading international legal bodies identify as a genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. In addition, it is a clear violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2803's requirement to resume humanitarian aid in a manner consistent with international legal principles and through cooperating organisations.

### **The Humanitarian Reality**

The timing of this ban is catastrophic. Over one million displaced Palestinians are currently enduring the harsh winter in makeshift tents. Heavy rainfall and flooding are destroying what little shelter remains, while the blockade continues to prevent the entry of blankets, winter clothing, and essential medicines.

If this ban is enforced, it will cause the total collapse of aid delivery in Gaza. These organisations provide the last lifeline for a population being starved and deprived of medical care. To allow their expulsion is to accept the inevitable death of thousands more civilians.

### **Lack of Accountability**

The UK Government continues to empower the Israeli government, while giving hollow statements of concern for the Palestinian people. The failure to hold the Israeli government to account for its illegal military occupation and violations of international law has directly paved the way for the removal of humanitarian organisations in Gaza.

### **Our call to Government**

As a representative body of the North London Muslim community, we call on the UK Government to protect humanitarian aid organisations presence in Gaza.

In line with the UK's legal obligations to prevent genocide and uphold international humanitarian law, we ask that the UK Government takes the following steps:

1. **Impose a Full Two-Way Arms Embargo:** Immediately halt all arms exports to and imports from Israel. As a nation we must not be complicit in supplying the weaponry used to enforce this occupation and bombardment.
2. **Implement Targeted Sanctions:** Move beyond verbal condemnation to concrete economic and diplomatic sanctions, including asset freezes and travel bans on Israeli government ministers responsible for these violations.
3. **Provide Direct Support:** Commit immediate financial and political protection to the Palestinian and international organisations now under threat. The UK Government should use its diplomatic leverage to ensure these agencies can continue their life-saving work without obstruction.

We look forward to a response outlining the concrete actions the Foreign Office will take to reverse this ban and end UK complicity in this unfolding catastrophe. NLCoM is committed to working with the UK Government to find solutions and offer to meet to discuss these asks in greater detail.

**Now is not the time to look away.**

Yours sincerely,

**Sister Bibi Khan MBE**

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NLCoM consists of: Mevlana Rumi Mosque. MCEC Palmers Green. Edmonton Islamic Centre. JJME Ponders End Mosque. London Islamic Cultural Society. Seven Sisters Masjid. Enfield Town Islamic Centre. Southgate Mosque. IANL Finchley Mosque. High Barnet Islamic Centre. Finsbury Park Mosque. Said Nursi Mosque. Barnet Islamic Centre. Al-Raasalah Mosque. Masjid Ayesha. Mariam Helping Centre. AsSunnah Islamic Centre. Garden of Firdous.

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