

Centre for Global Education



Action and Resource Guide on Gaza



Please find below some suggested actions and resources that will enhance understanding of and inform activism on the crisis in Gaza. As a development education centre committed to social justice and equality, the Centre for Global Education believes it is important that we are informed about the root causes of the current conflict and how it might be addressed. The information below is drawn from international and development agencies working in the field and solidarity organisations working on the crisis in Ireland.

Background to the Crisis

According to the United Nations, 2.3 million people are living in Gaza, of whom [80 percent](#) or 1.7 million are refugees from the 1948 Nakba or Catastrophe when 700,000 Palestinians were forcibly [expelled](#) and displaced from their land in what is now Israel. This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Nakba which, according to Amnesty International, 'has been engraved in Palestinian collective consciousness as a story of relentless dispossession'. A blockade on land, air and sea was imposed by Israel following the Hamas takeover of the Gaza Strip in 2007. The living conditions and civilian infrastructure have deteriorated since then to the point that a 2012 United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) [report](#) warned that by 2020 Gaza would no longer be a "liveable place". The siege has been [described](#) by Amnesty International as "collective punishment" and a "war crime". The [United Nations](#) assert that "Israel, as the Occupying Power, has the obligation to ensure the safety and protection of the occupied population under international human rights law and international humanitarian law". Before the current crisis, UNRWA [reported](#) that 63 percent of Gazans were 'food insecure' and 46.6 percent unemployed. UNICEF published this [factsheet](#) on the impact of the siege of Gaza in June 2022.

Latest Casualties in Gaza and Israel

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has released this [update](#) on the number of casualties since 7 October: there have been 1,200 Israeli fatalities (5,400 injured) and 237 Israelis and foreign nationals have been taken captive; 11,078 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza including 4,506 children and 3,027 women (27,490 injured). A total of 2,700 people are

missing in Gaza including 1,500 children presumed trapped or killed under rubble. Since Israel imposed a total siege on Gaza ([a 'siege within a siege'](#)) including food, fuel and water, the humanitarian situation has become dire. Here are some key indicators:

- 1.7 million people are internally displaced including 900,000 IDPs staying in 154 UNRWA shelters;
- Overcrowding in shelters is spreading diseases with 44,000 cases of diarrhoea and 70,000 acute respiratory infections recorded;
- 2,100 people, including 1,250 children, are missing presumed trapped under rubble;
- 102 UN staff and 201 health workers killed;
- 25 hospitals and 52 health centres out of service;
- 625,000 children in Gaza have no access to education and 51 percent of education facilities have been hit by airstrikes;
- There is a 4-6 hour wait for half-portions of the normal bread portion;
- Since 11 October, there has been a complete electricity outage in Gaza;
- 45 percent of housing units have been damaged or destroyed;
- 48 journalists have been killed in Gaza since 7 October including 43 Palestinians, 4 Israelis and 1 Lebanese.

Source: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA): <https://reliefweb.int/report/occupied-palestinian-territory/hostilities-gaza-strip-and-israel-flash-update-44>. These statistics were posted on 20 November and are updated every day by OCHA.

How can we respond as development educators?

1. Join a Protest

Since the start of the current crisis, protests have been organized across the island of Ireland by the Ireland Palestine Solidarity Campaign (IPSC) with the primary objective of calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. The IPSC web site carries details of all the emergency protests being organized. You can find them [here](#).

2. Demand that the Irish government take action

The Irish government has called for a ceasefire in Gaza and a lifting of the Israeli blockade. This urgent [action](#) from the IPSC asks the government to go further by calling for an arms embargo on Israel and a swift investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC) "into Israeli war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the crimes of genocide and apartheid".

3. Irish Anti-Apartheid Campaign

The Irish Anti-Apartheid Campaign for Palestine (IAAC-P) is a coalition of 23 Irish civil society organisations representing a collective membership of over one million people across the island. It has released this [statement](#) on the war in Gaza. Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and B'tselem, the Israeli Human Rights organisation have all described Israel's system of domination and oppression against Palestinians as a crime against humanity amounting to [apartheid](#).

4. Support Academics for Palestine

If you are an Irish academic, please support this [call](#) for all universities to sever partnerships or affiliations with Israeli institutions. And, please [join](#) Academics for Palestine.

5. Support Boycott Divestment Sanctions (BDS)

Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) is a Palestinian-led movement for freedom, justice and equality modelled on the anti-apartheid model in South Africa. BDS upholds the simple principle that

Palestinians are entitled to the same rights as the rest of humanity. Palestinian Civil Society Calls for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against Israel until it complies with international law and universal principles of human rights. BDS uses targeted campaigns against companies complicit with Israel's occupation. There are resources on the BDS web site on how it works and how you can support it available [here](#).



Omar Barghouti, the co-founder of BDS has published this [article](#) in *The Guardian* on the crisis in Gaza.

6. Dóchas Statement on Gaza

Dóchas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations has released this [statement](#) on the crisis in Gaza and Israel calling for a ceasefire. It lists the Irish humanitarian organisations working in the region.

7. The impact of the siege on children in Gaza

Prior to the current escalation (June 2022), Save the Children [found](#) that 4 out of 5 children in Gaza 'live with depression, grief and fear' as a result of the Israeli siege.

8. Education in Gaza

Since 2011, the Centre for Global Education has been delivering education programmes in the Gaza Strip in partnership with a Palestinian NGO called the Canaan Institute. The programmes provide formal education activities to 400 children aged 6-13 years in a community setting. The programme is needed because 198 schools in Gaza double-shift meaning the same school building is used by two different school populations. A report on the Centre's 2022 project is [here](#).

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