



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

*United Nations Consultative status with ECOSOC, UNESCO and UNCTAD
Special relations with the ILO, FAO, UNICEF, and other organisations and agencies*

WILPF Aotearoa Section, PO Box 2054, Wellington 6140

19 August 2024

Kia ora Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and Deputy Prime Minister Winston Peters

Re: New Zealand Government responsibilities

As women who have long been involved in the struggle for international peace and freedom, we are writing to you yet again to express our deep concern for the targeting of Palestinians, women and children predominantly, in a United Nations school – a protected site under international humanitarian law.

Recently the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Israel's continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is unlawful. In an earlier ruling the ICJ found that the Israeli Government's actions in the occupied Palestinian territories constituted genocide. Despite these rulings and other United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Israeli Government not only refuses to comply but continues its flagrant disrespect for International Humanitarian Law.

The ICJ ruling obliges the Israeli Government to end its unlawful presence as rapidly as possible, to immediately cease all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers. It must also make reparations for the damage caused to all the natural or legal persons concerned in those territories. The ICJ ruling also obliges all states parties to actively work to bring the errant parties' violations to an end and bring the party back into an attitude of respect for international law.

As a signatory to the Genocide Convention the New Zealand Government is obliged not only to not commit genocide but to prevent and punish it, whatever the position of the political parties comprising the particular government.

WILPF calls on the New Zealand Government to take concrete steps and uphold its legal obligations. These include:

- Recognise the state of Palestine: a two-state solution needs two states
- Back the South African case at the ICJ.
- Demand the International Criminal Court issue warrants for the arrest of those accused of war crimes.
- Demand a permanent ceasefire and an end to Israel's apartheid and the occupation.

- Advocate for a massive United Nations-led humanitarian response to the immediate needs of the Palestinian population and a "Marshall Plan" for Palestine

We look forward to hearing that the New Zealand Government has fulfilled its obligations under international law.

Ngaa mihi nui



Suzanne Loughlin
President