# JOIN THE CAMPAIGN TO BAN ISRAELI SETTLEMENT GOODS



From the ongoing genocide in Gaza, to relentless state-backed settler violence, and the system of apartheid that oppresses and dominates Palestinian life, we need a new wave of powerful and strategic activism to demand an end to the brutal and racist oppression faced by all Palestinians.

Since 2022, Amnesty has been calling for an end to Israeli apartheid and the racist regime of oppressive laws, policies, and practices designed to stifle and deny the humanity of Palestinians. Despite the existence of human rights statutes and international laws designed to prevent war crimes and crimes against humanity, the international community has failed to effectively hold Israel accountable. The UK Government is no exception, repeatedly ignoring its legal obligation to prevent and punish genocide, despite claiming to be a champion of the 'rule of law'.

We need strong and decisive action to expose this hypocrisy and make it clear that the public will not stand by and watch as our government supports and funds oppression, violence, and the denial of fundamental human rights. To hold the UK Government accountable and enact meaningful change, we must push for an end to the UK's trade and business complicity in illegal settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem - a key feature of Israel's system of apartheid.

In April, we launched the first part of this campaign — urging local councils to pass resolutions committing to exclude tenderers who do business in and with illegal Israeli settlements. Now, we're looking to Parliament. By December 2025, we want as many MPs as possible to publicly call for a UK ban on the importation of Israeli settlement goods. Launching this Nakba day (May 15th), we need your help to build pressure on your MP and, through online and offline actions, urge them to call out the UK's complicity in Israeli apartheid.

#### Why a Settlement Goods Ban?

It shouldn't be possible for goods produced in Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem to be available in the UK, given that settlements are illegal under international law. So, we're pushing for a decisive ban on Israeli settlement goods from entering the UK.

Amnesty UK recognises that many activists and groups are engaged in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement and other consumer-focused campaigns calling for economic accountability on a local level. This campaign, by contrast, is pushing for State responsibility and for the UK Government to hold Israel accountable for establishing settlements on Palestinian land, rather than encouraging individual, consumer action, which many Amnesty activists are involved in anyway.



## HOW?

To hold the UK Government accountable and enact meaningful change, we need to build power on a local level. This involves building a committed coalition of activists, collectively calling on your MP for support, and then organising a public action to build momentum and awareness around the campaign. This may sound daunting, but the information below should help to break down the process.



# **Building a coalition**

To create local pressure and a strong campaign, you need to build and maintain relationships in your community, especially with other groups already campaigning for Palestinian human rights. The more people engaged in this campaign and lobbying your MP with you, the more pressure you can build on them act. Creating a broad coalition of activists will also help to increase visibility of the campaign in the community and raise broader public awareness of the UK's complicity in Israel's apartheid and the need for a national ban on settlement goods.

#### What is community mapping?

Community mapping is an organising technique that helps locate your local community and its constituents in a bigger national or global campaign for human rights. It involves researching potential allies and identifying who your key partner activist and grassroots groups could be.

First, find out if there are any <u>Amnesty local, student, or youth groups</u> in your constituency or local area. Reach out to them using the contact details available online, or contact Amika George (<u>amika.george@amnesty.org.uk</u>) for help with getting in touch.



Next, research if there's an active <u>Palestine Solidarity Campaign group</u> in your community, local BDS campaigns organising for 'Apartheid Free Zones', <u>Palestine Action</u> or Friends of Palestine groups, local trade unions, and others in your community working towards similar goals. Use Amnesty's community mapping template (**Appendix A**) to map out these groups clearly and keep it updated as you build connections and contacts.





You can find out who your elected Member of Parliament is, and information about them, their voting history, and their contact details <a href="here">here</a>. The 'Is my MP a war criminal?' tool provides an overview of MPs' stances on Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including whether they voted or participated in recent Parliamentary debates or Bills like the suspension of arms sales to Israel or making BDS illegal for public bodies. This will be useful context to know ahead of a meeting or if they attend your 'Apartheid-Free meal'.

#### What should I say?

The specific ask will depend on whether or not your MP has a Government role. You can find this out in the 'currently held offices' section on their 'theyworkforyou' profile.



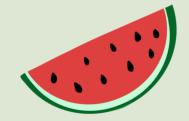
If they don't have a Government role, we're asking them to show their public support for a ban by signing an <u>Early Day Motion</u> calling for a ban on settlement goods. There's a draft letter in the appendix (Appendix B) you can use if you're contacting them for the first time.



If they do have a Government role, they won't be able to sign any EDMs, so we're asking them to write to the Prime Minister calling for a ban on settlement goods. There's a draft letter in the appendix (Appendix C) for you to use for this too.

You can sign this off from you, your Amnesty group, or as your wider coalition (or send more than one email!).

Once your MP has replied, stating whether or not they will take action, let us know by emailing us or forwarding any correspondence to <a href="mailto:parliament@amnesty.org.uk">parliament@amnesty.org.uk</a>, as we'll be tracking how many MPs are supportive.



# Planning an 'Apartheid-Free Meal'

To raise public awareness of the demand for a settlement goods ban and build relationships in your coalition and community, organise an 'Apartheid-Free Meal' and invite your MP along! This will visibly demonstrate support for Palestinian human rights in your local community and show solidarity by celebrating Palestinian culture and food. When contacting your MP about the EDM, let them know about the 'Apartheid-Free Meal' you're organising, and emphasise to them that it will be a great opportunity to discuss our campaign ask.

#### A few tips for planning your 'Apartheid-Free Meal'

When: MPs are back in their home constituencies over the weekends, so planning this for a Friday, Saturday, or Sunday evening would mean a better chance of them attending. Note: this should take place before Parliament goes on recess on 22nd July 2025.

Volunteers: You will need a minimum of 5 volunteers in the run up to and on the night of the event. Ahead of the event, assign volunteers roles so they know what they are responsible for. Volunteer roles include booking a venue; sourcing (non-settlement produced) ingredients and preparing the meal; outreach and inviting guests; set up and clean up on the night; serving food; and, if you're having a panel discussion, contacting and organising speakers.

Venue: Look at suitable venues in your community, check how much they cost to book, their capacity, accessibility and wheelchair access, and whether they have presentation and audio facilities. Book the venue well in advance and make sure it is within your budget. Also make sure to book some spare time before and after the event so you have adequate time to set up and clean up.

Meal: your meal could involve preparing Palestinian food together, or a group of you could meet earlier in the day or the night before to cook together. There are some ingredients available <a href="here">here</a>, and some recipe ideas by Palestinian chefs on our <a href="here">Palestine at Home</a> page, and <a href="here">video versions here</a>. Alternatively, you could ask local Palestinian cafes or caterers if they would be willing to partner with you and provide food or a space for the event.

Media coverage: Contact local newspapers and any journalists who might be interested in attending, asking them to cover the event. There's a draft press release you can use in the appendix (Appendix D) to attach to any email correspondence.

Social media: Using social media, you could contact local influencers or celebrities asking them to attend. Make sure to take photos of the meal to share online and with interested press after too.

Budget: Unfortunately, Amnesty UK cannot currently offer funding for individual events hosted by groups.



If you need support or have any questions about this, please get in touch with Amika George (<a href="mailto:amika.george@amnesty.org.uk">amika.george@amnesty.org.uk</a>).

For updates, and to connect with activists across the UK working on this campaign in their local areas, join this WhatsApp community.



# A) Community Mapping Template

### **Community Mapping**

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

DEMOGRAPHIC (e.g. what do you know about the community? Who are they?)

KEY DATES (e.g. Local holidays, festivals, human rights related dates etc.)

LOCAL ISSUES What are the most important local issues? What do locals care about?

#### **ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS**

(e.g. Activist groups, rights holders, charities, social groups, businesses etc.)

DECISION MAKERS & INFLUENCERS (e.g. Politicians, community leaders, local journalists, local celebrities etc.)

INSTITUTIONS (e.g. Schools, universities, colleges, hospitals, places of worship, government buildings, etc.)

PHYSICAL SPACES (e.g. Parks, community halls, public spaces, markets, town centre etc.)

#### B) Draft Letter to MP (without a Government role)

XX XXXX 2025

Dear [insert MP name],

My name is [full name], and I am [an activist/member/Chair/Secretary] of [Amnesty Local, Student, or Youth Group name].

I am writing to you today to ask you to support the call for the UK to ban the importation of Israeli settlement goods by signing <u>EDM 1266</u>.

#### If you are organising an 'Apartheid-Free Meal', include

We would also like to invite you to an 'Apartheid-Free Meal' we will be holding on [insert date] at [insert location], to raise awareness of our call for a UK ban on Israeli settlement goods, and to show our solidarity with Palestinians.

As a group, we are incredibly concerned about the UK's complicity in upholding and supporting the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory, and the system of apartheid that has led to widespread human rights abuses and violence towards Palestinians.

Apartheid is a crime against humanity and is illegal under international law. In 2022, following years of research and investigation, Amnesty International concluded that Palestinians are suffering under a brutal apartheid regime imposed by the Israeli authorities, despite the existence of international human rights statues and international humanitarian law created to prevent crimes against humanity and apartheid systems.

As we learnt from the South African anti-apartheid movement, calling out and ending financial relationships and trade with states violating international law and human rights can be incredibly effective in our collective pursuit for justice.

Moreover, we know that the International Court of Justice has <u>directed</u> all States to "abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory" and to "take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal [occupation]". Therefore, the UK must ban the importation of settlement goods in order to comply with international law. You probably know that the UK has banned the importation of goods from illegally occupied Crimea - if it doesn't also do the same for goods from settlements in illegally occupied Palestine, that will smack of hypocrisy.



We believe that our constituency can lead this charge by taking a strong and unapologetic stance in advocating for Palestinian human rights: by supporting an Early Day Motion calling for the UK to ban the importation of Israeli settlement goods, you'll make it clear that you support international law, and represent the spirit of our community and our unwavering dedication to human rights.

For your information, Amnesty International UK has produced <u>this explainer</u> on Israeli settlement goods and <u>this report</u> on the UK's complicity in human rights abuses by doing businesses with settlements, in addition to <u>their report on Israeli apartheid published in 2022</u>, and <u>their report on the ongoing genocide in Gaza</u>, published in 2024.

We would be delighted to share a meal with you on [insert date], and discuss whether you will call for a ban and sign Early Day Motion 1266. If you have any questions, or if you would like to meet to discuss this — or any other matters related to Palestinian human rights — please do let me know.

Best wishes,

[full name]

[full address]

#### C) Draft Letter to MP (Government Minister or Role)

XX XXXX 2025

Dear [insert MP name],

My name is [full name], and I am [an activist/member/Chair/Secretary] of [Amnesty Local, Student, or Youth Group name].

I am writing to you today to ask you to support the call for the UK to ban the importation of Israeli settlement goods. As you are a Minister, I understand you may not be able to publicly call on the Government to do this, so instead will you write to the Prime Minister calling for a ban?

#### If you are organising an 'Apartheid-Free Meal', include

We would also like to invite you to an 'Apartheid-Free Meal' we will be holding on [insert date] at [insert location], to raise awareness of our call for a UK ban on Israeli settlement goods, and to show our solidarity with Palestinians.

As a group, we are incredibly concerned about the UK's complicity in upholding and supporting the illegal occupation of Palestinian territory, and the system of apartheid that has led to widespread human rights abuses and violence towards Palestinians.

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Moreover, we know that the International Court of Justice has <u>directed</u> all States to "abstain from entering into economic or trade dealings with Israel concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territory" and to "take steps to prevent trade or investment relations that assist in the maintenance of the illegal [occupation]". Therefore, the UK must ban the importation of settlement goods in order to comply with international law.

You probably know that the UK has banned the importation of goods from illegally occupied Crimea - if it doesn't also do the same for goods from settlements in illegally occupied Palestine, that will smack of hypocrisy.



We believe that our constituency can lead this charge by taking a strong and unapologetic stance in advocating for Palestinian human rights: by writing to Prime Minister Keir Starmer and calling for the UK to ban the importation of Israeli settlement goods to the UK, you'll make it clear that you support international law, and represent the spirit of our community and our unwavering dedication to human rights.

For your information, Amnesty International UK has produced <u>this explainer</u> on Israeli settlement goods and <u>this report</u> on the UK's complicity in human rights abuses by doing businesses with settlements, in addition to <u>their report on Israeli apartheid published in 2022</u>, and <u>their report on the ongoing genocide in Gaza</u>, published in 2024.

We would be delighted to share a meal with you on [insert date], and discuss whether you will ask the Prime Minister to implement a ban on the importation of settlement goods. If you have any questions, or if you would like to meet to discuss this — or any other matters related to Palestinian human rights — please do let me know.

Best wishes,

[full name]

[full address]

#### D) Local Press Release on Apartheid-Free Meal

# AMNESTY [ADD YOUTH / STUDENT / LOCAL GROUP NAME] HOSTS 'APARTHEID-FREE MEAL' URGING [ADD MP NAME] TO SUPPORT BAN ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENT GOODS

Event aims to raise awareness, build solidarity, and call for UK action on illegal settlements and human rights abuses

[Add another sub-head if there's a special guest attending]

[Town/City, UK] — Local residents and members of Amnesty International [add Amnesty group name] are inviting their community - and their MP, [MP's Full Name] - to the table this week for a powerful act of local solidarity: an 'Apartheid-Free Meal' highlighting the human rights impact of illegal Israeli settlements and calling for a ban on importing goods from and providing services to settlements.

The event is part of Amnesty UK's Ban Israeli Settlement Goods <u>Campaign</u>, which demands the UK government prohibit the import and sale of goods produced in illegal settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. These settlements violate international law and are a key pillar of Israel's system of apartheid against Palestinians, as documented in Amnesty's 2022 <u>landmark report</u>.

Through a shared meal of Palestinian cuisine, campaigners aim to raise awareness, build community support, and urge [add MP's name] to publicly [remove 'publicly' if MP is a Minister] back a ban on trade with illegal settlements - preventing UK businesses from contributing to ongoing human rights violations.

[Add your name], spokesperson for Amnesty International [add group name], said:

"This is a moment to act on our values."

"Israel's rapidly expanding illegal settlements are built on stolen Palestinian land, displace families, and perpetuate a system of apartheid. The UK must stop enabling these abuses through trade in these tainted goods.

"We're calling on our MP, [add MP name] to take a stand and support a ban."



The Apartheid-Free Meal will include [add info about the event: cuisine, speakers, other entertainment]. There will also be an opportunity for attendees to write directly to their MP. Similar events are taking place across the UK, building pressure on Parliament to uphold international law and human rights.

#### **Event Details**

- What: Apartheid-Free Meal with local community
- When: [Insert date and time]
- Where: [Insert venue name and address]
- Organised by: Amnesty International [Local/Student/Youth group name]
- Speaker/s or special guest: [Add names]

#### For more information contact

• [Add name, email and number]

#### Notes to editor

- Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are illegal under international law and violate the Fourth Geneva Convention.
- Goods produced in these settlements are often sold internationally, helping sustain serious human rights violations.
- Amnesty's 2022 <u>report</u> concluded that Israeli authorities are enforcing a system of apartheid against Palestinians.
- Amnesty is calling on the UK Government to ban trade with illegal settlements and ensure UK companies are not profiting from occupation and apartheid.

