

ICJP 2024 General Election Doorstepping Guide

Close the loopholes! This document aims to guide you if you get doorstepped by a canvasser or candidate ahead of the General Election on July 4th.

Here is the definitive list of questions to gauge their positions on Palestine and international law – and the classic loopholes politicians use to get out of answering the questions. Make them give you a direct answer – accept no excuses, half-truths, or lies.

1. Do you support an *immediate* and *permanent* ceasefire in Gaza?

Why it's important to ask: Many candidates say they support 'peace' or some form of ceasefire – but make sure they call for both an immediate and a permanent ceasefire.

When politicians talk about a ceasefire '*when the time is right*' or '*as soon as possible*', they are saying that they can accept the continued daily massacres of Palestinians until that time.

2. Do you support *immediate* and *unconditional* recognition of the State of Palestine?

Why it's important to ask: Some politicians will claim to support the recognition of the State of Palestine, but this means little when it comes with conditions and qualifiers. These include saying that it has to happen as part of the peace process, or with Israel's permission, or even at the end of the peace process.

The UK is out of step with the rest of the world. Three quarters of UN members already recognise Palestine without such qualifications or conditions – *unilateral and immediate* recognition is a valid option. When recognising Palestine last month, Ireland, Spain and Norway said that recognition is a step towards peace, not something to happen afterwards.

3. Do you accept that Israeli settler violence can only function with the tacit and overt support of the Israeli state?

Why it's important to ask: Lots of politicians will condemn the acts of violence perpetrated by Israeli settlers in the West Bank – but fail to hold the Israeli government to account for their involvement in human rights abuses by settlers.



Israeli forces protect settlers, and fail to prevent their violence, standing by when they storm the Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, or when they burn Palestinian olive groves in Huwara.

Politicians must recognise publicly that, by providing settlers with a sense of impunity, the Israeli government is complicit in settler violence and Palestinian displacement.

4. Do you support the refunding of UNRWA and accept that UNRWA is the most efficient way to provide aid to Palestinians in Gaza?

Why it's important to ask: If a politician says they want 'to get more aid in' to Gaza, but doesn't support UNRWA as the way to do it, then they are misleading you.

The reality is that UNRWA is the largest and most experienced aid provider in Gaza and the wider region. UNRWA is the only agency able to deliver aid at scale in Gaza, and support for UNRWA is the only possible way to address Gaza's famine.

An independent UN-commissioned report (The Colonna Report) found that UNRWA had high internal standards, which disputed the Israeli governments smears against the organisation.

5. Do you fully accept the independence and jurisdiction of the international Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice and the UK's obligations as a State Party to the Rome Statute?

Why its important to ask: Most UK politicians have, historically, respected the main judicial institutions of international law: the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

Since the ICC and ICJ began rebuking Israel for the potential war crimes and crimes against humanity being committed against Palestinians, however, Global North countries including the USA have recently tried to delegitimise these institutions.

Politicians must make clear that they respect the authority and independence of both bodies, would support and help to enforce decisions of these Courts, and have respect for the rule of law universally – not just when it suits their agendas or benefits their allies.



6. Do you support a full arms embargo on Israel in light of evidence that Israel is breaking international law, with continued exports violating the UK's own Strategic Export Licensing Criteria?

Why it's important to ask: There is no manner in which continued arms sales to Israel can be justified, violating both domestic British export regulations and international law under the Arms Trade Treaty.

It is not enough for politicians to say they support a 'review' into arms exports, or to reference the legal advice that the government has consulted. There is already ample evidence that Israel is breaking international law with regards to war crimes and crimes against humanity, as well as plausible genocide.

We expect politicians to be direct enough to recognise this publicly and to support an immediate cessation of arms.

7. Would you support the Police, Crime and Sentencing Act 2022, the Public Order Act 2023 and the Serious Disruption Prevention Orders.

Why it's important to ask: During the last government, several new pieces of legislation and new powers were introduced to disrupt peaceful protest, which have been used to target pro-Palestinian protests in recent months.

We expect politicians to call for the repealing of these powers, and to support the right to freedom of thought, speech, and assembly.

