

US deal must stop Gaza genocide, end occupation and build a just two-state solution

LONDON, 10 October 2025

The deal agreed at Sharm el-Sheikh following the plan proposed by US President Donald Trump presents a real opportunity to end genocide and famine in Gaza. It must also lead to a path towards a fair and lasting peace for all Palestinians and Israelis.

We call on all parties to act with urgency and in good faith to seize this opportunity to secure a lasting ceasefire and troop withdrawal, free Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners and detainees and restore UN-led humanitarian aid at scale.

For President Trump's goal of a "strong, durable and everlasting peace" to be achieved, this initiative must be grounded in the fundamental principles of international law. It must ensure an end to Israel's illegal occupation of all Palestinian territory within the 1967 borders, not just of Gaza.

The US plan importantly asserts that Israel will not occupy or annex Gaza, and that the Palestinians living there will not be forced to leave. Indefinite security control over Gaza by Israel, however, would represent a continuation of the unlawful occupation. Security for Palestinians and Israelis can only be achieved through equal sovereignty and statehood.

The leadership of the State of Palestine must now have an equal seat at the negotiating table alongside Israelis. Genuine Palestinian engagement is essential to the process as it goes forward, particularly on transitional governance and security arrangements for Gaza, and the role and mandate of any international stabilisation force.

The long-term governance of Gaza must be Palestinian-led to ensure independence and legitimacy, paving the way for a unified State of Palestine that integrates Gaza with the West Bank and East Jerusalem. It is equally important to maintain the momentum on recognition of the State of Palestine by all UN members, to uphold accountability under international law, and to reassert the role of UN agencies (including UNRWA) in the delivery of humanitarian aid.

President Trump's twenty-point plan will need to build on the core principles and actions set out in the New York Declaration during the French-Saudi High-Level Conference on a Two-state Solution, and endorsed by 142 UN member states in September.

If Israel is given a free hand to continue its policy of annexation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, regardless of any ceasefire in Gaza, any hope of peace will remain illusory.

Making further progress will be a test of leaders' resolve and commitment. Now is not the time to relax pressure on either Israel or Hamas, particularly for the US, European and Arab states with leverage via various political, cultural and economic relationships.

The Elders stand in solidarity with the brave voices across all of Palestine and Israel who continue to promote a future based on peaceful co-existence between the two peoples.

ENDS

Media enquiries

William French, Head of Communications
T: +44 7795 693903
media@theElders.org

Sign up to [receive The Elders' press releases](#).

About The Elders

The Elders are independent global leaders working for peace, justice, human rights and a sustainable planet. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#), [Helen Clark](#), [Elbegdorj Tsakhia](#), [Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Denis Mukwege](#), [Ellen Johnson Sirleaf](#), [Graça Machel \(Deputy Chair\)](#), [Juan Manuel Santos \(Chair\)](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Ban Ki-moon](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Ricardo Lagos](#) and [Muhammad Yunus](#) are Elders Emeritus.

[Desmond Tutu](#) (1931-2021) and [Kofi Annan](#) (1938-2018) were founding members of The Elders and served as Chairs from 2007 to 2013 and 2013 to 2018 respectively. [Ela Bhatt](#) (1933-2022) and [Martti Ahtisaari](#) (1937 - 2023) were members of The Elders from 2007 to 2016 and 2009 to 2018 respectively. [Jimmy Carter](#) (1924-2024) was also a founding member of The Elders.

Find out more

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to www.theElders.org.

Follow The Elders on [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#).