

UK Government must make clear it will not accept Trump and Netanyahu's breaches of international law, say Greens

17 March 2026 / 17 March 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Responding to recent international developments in the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr Ellie Chowns, leader of the Parliamentary Green Party, said:

“Just weeks ago we saw Trump and Netanyahu launch illegal strikes against Iran in the midst of ongoing negotiations, endangering countless civilian lives and dragging the entire surrounding region into chaos. Despite the clear human cost of this flagrant breach of international law, the UK Government did not condemn the initial attacks made by the US and Israel. On the contrary, Keir Starmer has continued to stress Britain's allyship with these two nations – and in allowing the US to use UK military bases for ‘defensive’ action, has risked dragging the UK further into an illegal war.

“The US and Israel have continuously flouted international law with apparent impunity. Whether concerning Israel's genocide in Gaza and illegal settlement expansion in the West Bank or the US's unilateral attacks on Venezuela in the name of oil imperialism, the UK Government has refused to pursue appropriate action against these nations for breaching international law or to re-evaluate their status as allies to Britain.

“This permissiveness has not tempered the two countries. Following the strikes on Iran, Israel has expanded their ground campaign in Lebanon, displacing a million people throughout the country and seemingly preparing for prolonged occupation of southern Lebanon. Trump has intensified his threats against Cuba following the collapse of the island nation's energy grid under a US-imposed oil blockade, declaring just yesterday that he believes he will ‘take’ the country and ‘could do anything [he] want[s] with it.’

“This cannot continue. The Green Party calls on the UK Government to make clear to Trump and Netanyahu the UK will not accept breaches of international law, to withdraw permission for the US to use UK military bases, and to refuse any further complicity in this illegal war. Furthermore, we reiterate our calls for the UK to halt all arms sales to and military cooperation with the Israeli Government, to drive independent investigations into war crimes committed and support justice mechanisms for victims, and to impose sanctions on government officials responsible for breaches of international law.”

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Green MP Hannah Spencer makes her first Commons speech

Four weeks ago today I was in college, A plumber learning how to plaster.

And today I'm in parliament, as an MP.

And being here is the honour of my life. But I don't want this to be unusual or exceptional. I truly believe that anyone doing a job like mine should get a seat on these benches.

And where I'm from, we're taught to look after each other. To look out for each other. To stick up for each other and to stick together. To see each other as human.

And I am so proud of that humanity, and that people in Gorton and Denton, and Burnage, and Levenshulme and Longsight and Abbey Hey feel that way too. It's in our blood and in our bones.

We see each other as human

Where I'm from, we give a nod to the statue of Emmeline Pankhurst, we remember the farm worker and seamstress Hannah Mitchell, the Trade Unionist Mary Quaile and the mill worker Annie Kenney. And of course Elsie Plant, who's from just down the road from me, and who I named one of my beautiful greyhounds after.

I think of these brilliant women a lot and especially today as we debate International Women's Day.

And I think of many others too, from pits, slums and factories. The women who changed the system so that I could be here. The women of colour, whose names we will never know because history didn't bother to recognise or remember them. But we do today, because without their struggle and their fight and their determination to stick together, none of this could be possible.

And it's bittersweet, to recognise these brilliant people but to be reminded that we still need to try and be them.

The constituency that elected me is the 15th most deprived constituency in

the country.

It has suffered decades of neglect and broken promises.

And we see this every day, right in front of us – the litter, the flytipping, the state of housing, the struggle for a job that you can build a life on, the filthy polluted air and the reduced life chances. The sheer unfairness of it all.

And my constituency has been hit hard by the ongoing cost of living crisis.

And now none of this is fair, none of this is right, and none if it happens by accident.

So I very much share my predecessor's strong commitment to tackling health inequalities and putting local people and all our communities at the heart of decision making. That's how we begin to turn things around, to give people agency, and a genuine chance of a better today and a better tomorrow.

And to the girls who I saw photos of [sorry], who went to school on International Women's Day dressed as 'Hannah the plumber' in their overalls, spanners, and trademark hair. To the 10 year old boy at Hideout who rockclimbed an incredibly high wall with me and who saw me suddenly become very terrified of how far up I was, and who said to me 'don't ever give up, and if it's scary looking down then just look at what's in front of you'.

To the women in my life who've had my back, who've fought for equality alongside me.

And to the men that I work with (especially the lads on my plastering course who dealt with my new found spotlight in the middle of our training very well), but those men who will suffer the effects of this unequal society through their mental health.

To the veterans I know who were willing to risk everything and come home and find that society was turning its back on them.

To the white working classes, who are always lumped into one group and never appreciated.

To everyone who will have nowhere to sleep tonight, or will barely exist in a cold, damp and insecure home.

To my Trans siblings who get blamed for everything.

To the Muslims everywhere who are constantly and often violently scapegoated.

To the disabled people who can't access the world because of structural inequality that is completely fixable.

To the people of colour, who have to work harder at everything.

I don't always get it, I won't say I always understand it. But what I do know is what it feels like to be looked down on. To be let down and left behind. To be less worthy because of something about me.

And our struggles may be different, but our humanity is the same. We always stick together- we always fight for each other. And that is what I want us to take forward from International Women's Day – and to do that every single day.

The cleaners, the bus drivers, the nursery workers, the foster carers, the home carers, the unpaid carers, the teaching assistants, the bin collectors, the warehouse workers, the delivery drivers, the school dinner staff, the lollipop wardens, the supermarket workers, the posties, the library staff, the kitchen porters, the farm workers, the mechanics, the groundworkers, the scaffolders, the electricians, the plasterers, and the plumbers.

We deserve to be here. Every single one of us. And I will make space for you to come and join me, to get to have your say.

And from the bustle of Longsight market, to the many Irish pubs in Levy, Sue's Chippy and Tony at California wines in Gorton, the amazing young people at Hideout, the best hash brown butty at Cafe Plus in Denton, and the women-led social enterprise at Dahlia Café on Burnage Lane. You are the best of our brilliant communities.

I want to put Gorton and Denton on the map by championing the positives about our community – the spirit, the warmth, the grit, and the way that we help each other out, every single day.

Whether that's our neighbours where we live or our siblings in places like Afghanistan, Gaza, Sudan, Iran. Wherever we are, we deserve to live freely as the human beings that we all are.

We do things differently in Manchester and it makes me proud every single day. And now I want to make Abbey Hey, Levenshulme, Burnage, Longsight, Gorton and Denton proud of me – thank you so much for putting your faith in this plumber and newly qualified plasterer.

Together, we can make hope normal again. And we will look after each other, whoever we are.

Because where I'm from, that is just what we do.

Thank you.

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[war on Iran shows dependence on fossil fuels makes economies vulnerable to oil shocks](#)

11 March 2026 / 10 March 2026 by [Andrew Bell](#)

Responding to the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) finding that the cost of Net Zero is less than the cost of the 2022 Ukraine oil price shock, the Green Party has today said we need to transition to clean energy as quickly as possible to protect people and the economy from future oil shocks.

Contrary to Reform UK's unfounded claims about the cost of Net Zero, the CCC has today confirmed that the benefits of Net Zero outweigh the costs: "for every £1 spent there will be £2 to £4 in benefits" they conclude.

Green Party leader Zack Polanski said:

"Our dependency on fossil fuels is a strategic vulnerability for the UK – as evidenced by the war between Russia and Ukraine and the now the war on Iran. We need to make the transition to clean energy as fast as we can to protect people and our economy from the price shocks and instability that come when oil prices spike."

Green Party MP Carla Denyer, who leads on energy security and net zero, said:

"This report makes a compelling case: that cutting carbon emissions makes sense for our economy, as well as for the safety of our climate.

"The numbers speak for themselves – investing in Net Zero pays dividends, avoiding the billions of pounds in climate damages that we would face as the cost of not acting, while also giving us warmer homes, cheaper bills, cleaner air and healthier lives for us and future generations."

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[Green Party statement on latest developments in Iran war](#)

Responding to the latest developments in the war on Iran, Dr Ellie Chowns, Parliamentary Green Party spokesperson on foreign affairs and MP for North

Herefordshire, said:

“The human cost of the illegal attack by the US and Israel on Iran is becoming clearer every day. The UK Government must stand unequivocally against this reckless war and use every available lever to press for a peaceful solution.

“The Iranian regime’s human rights abuses are intolerable, and the Green Party stands in complete solidarity with the citizens of Iran and the pursuit of justice for the those who have been targeted and killed by the horrific regime. We also recognise that the illegal US-Israeli strikes on Iran have not and will not ensure the safety of Iranian civilians, nor further the pursuit of nuclear de-escalation.

“Since the strikes on Iran began, more than 1,200 people in the country have been killed, with many more injured and 13 verified attacks made on health infrastructure. Conflict has escalated throughout the region, with civilians paying a heavy price. Just yesterday Israeli forces launched massive airstrikes in the southern suburbs of Beirut, only hours after issuing an evacuation order for the over 500,000 people living there.

“This displays an utter disregard for civilian lives. We saw these patterns in Gaza – it cannot happen again in Lebanon.

“No nation should be able to break international law with impunity – civilians and healthcare facilities must be protected and those responsible for illegal attacks held to account.

“The Prime Minister has stated he believes the best way forward is through a negotiated settlement, yet he has not condemned the initial attacks made by the US and Israel in the midst of those very negotiations, and has allowed the US to use UK military bases for defensive action.

“This is a clear error; not only was this permission given without a parliamentary vote, but the Prime Minister has offered no clear assurances regarding how the UK can be certain of the defensive or offensive nature of any US action launched from our bases. At this moment, the UK stands at great risk of being dragged further into another illegal war in the Middle East, forsaking the lessons of past involvements.

“It is one reason why, with cross-party support, I brought a Bill to Parliament earlier this week that would require the UK government have a viable objective, legal basis, and the backing of MPs before military deployments can be made.”

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