

# [Green Party denounces 'profound assault on Palestinian rights' in the West Bank](#)

9 February 2026 / 9 February 2026 by [Green Party](#)

Reacting to news of [Israel expanding control over the West Bank](#), leader of the Parliamentary Green Party, Dr Ellie Chowns MP, said:

“The reported decisions by Israel’s security cabinet to make it easier for settlers to buy land in the West Bank and to expand enforcement powers over Palestinians are a profound assault on Palestinian rights, further entrenching occupation and legitimising illegal settlement expansion.

“These measures are built on the foundation of decades of dispossession, subjugation, and military control of Palestinians, and stand against the stark backdrop of the catastrophic genocide committed in Gaza, where swathes of the population remain deprived of vital aid, medical care, and adequate nutrition, and Palestinians in Gaza continue to be killed by Israeli forces despite a ceasefire being in place. These are not the actions of a state seeking peace; they are the latest extension of a long-upheld system that denies Palestinians the right to determine their own future.

“When the Green Party welcomed the UK’s recognition of the state of Palestine last year as a necessary and long-overdue step, we also warned that recognition alone was not enough – it must be accompanied by meaningful action to uphold Palestinian rights. The UK must take those actions now – ban imports from illegal Israeli settlements in Palestine, halt all arms sales to and military cooperation with the Israeli Government, drive independent investigations into war crimes and support justice mechanisms for victims, and impose sanctions on those Israeli Government officials who are responsible, including Benjamin Netanyahu and other senior figures, given the flagrant disregard for international law displayed through the expansion of illegal settlements.”

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## [Publication of the justification](#)

## [report for the Real Living Wage uplift for social care staff](#)

The Department of Health has published a report setting out the evidence base for improving pay and terms and conditions across the independent social care sector.

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## [Oral Ministerial Statement by Gordon Lyons MLA Minister for Communities](#)

Update to the Assembly following the review carried out by the Benefit Fraud and Error Task and Finish Group

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## [Minister announces plans to tackle welfare fraud and error](#)

Communities Minister Gordon Lyons has launched a new drive to tackle fraud and error in the benefits system.

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## [Tackling historical sexual misconduct in our party](#)

We have all rightly been appalled at the revelations about Jeffrey Epstein's child sex trafficking ring, and the rich and powerful men associated with him. We have rightly condemned Peter Mandelson and led calls for him to be held to account.

Sexual abuse in whatever form is totally unacceptable. Survivors should be believed, and those responsible should always be held properly to account.

But we have to be honest – that hasn't always been the case in our party. There are people who have come forward with credible allegations who haven't been believed. People who didn't have their complaints investigated, or did but in a way that did not meet the standards we should expect.

That's why we have, in recent years, strengthened our rules and overhauled our complaints processes to deliver justice. Our party handles complaints better today than it did in the past.

So today I am asking you: if you are a survivor of sexual abuse, misconduct or harassment at the hands of a party member, employee, official or parliamentarian – no matter when it occurred – please consider coming forward and making a complaint today.

[You can find details of how to do that here.](#)

## Make a Complaint

Help us hold those responsible to account. Help us stamp out this sort of appalling behaviour in our party – and across our society.

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