

27th January 2024

Welfare Association Statement on the ICJ's Order of 26 January 2024

We welcome the provisional measures ordered by the International Court of Justice and in particular that Israel must:

“take immediate and effective measures to enable the provision of urgently needed basic services and humanitarian assistance to address the adverse conditions of life faced by Palestinians in the Gaza Strip”.

The practical implications are that:

- Israel must immediately reverse its policy to deprive Palestinians in Gaza of water and electricity, both of which constitute ‘urgently needed basic services’. Additionally, given the damage caused to the water and electricity infrastructure, the requirement that the measures be effective requires Israel to facilitate repair to such infrastructure to ensure that Palestinians can access and benefit from those basic services.
- Israel must also ensure that communications, including digital, are not disrupted. Digital/satellite technologies constitute ‘urgently needed basic services’ not least for emergency services operating in Gaza but also for the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. This will also require Israel to facilitate repairs to such infrastructure to ensure that Palestinians have access to and benefit from communication services.
- Israel must also take immediate and effective measures to ensure the provision of food, fuel, medical aid, warm clothing, and temporary shelters to Palestinians in Gaza. Each of these constitute urgently needed basic provisions, the continued denial of which would bring about the physical destruction of the Palestinian population in whole or in part.
- Given the scale of need, Israel must take proactive steps to immediately and effectively facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance by the international community and humanitarian organisations. This requires Israel not to impede in any manner, including through delay or rejection, such humanitarian assistance and delivery.
- Unhindered delivery and distribution of basic services and humanitarian assistance is conditioned on the safety and well-being of those providing such services, aid, and assistance. In practice, this requires the parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire.

We call on the UK Government to:

- **uphold international law and do everything in its power to ensure that the measures ordered by the ICJ are complied with expeditiously.**
- **build on the momentum of this ruling to secure a permanent ceasefire.**
- **increase UK aid to Gaza and to ensure all Gaza crossing points are opened 24/7.**