



US WOMEN'S CAUCUS

Feminist Advocacy at the UN

It's Time to End the War

The US Women's Caucus deplores the relentless conflict in Gaza which has reached intolerable levels of inhumanity and violence. It's time to end the killing, the starvation, and the suffering for all.

Alas, women and children are bearing the brunt of this violence. UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls Reem Alsalem described the violence in Gaza as "femi-genocide." As she explained in a recent interview, "Palestinian women and girls carry the promise of the continuity of Palestinian life, and therefore they are being deliberately killed, they're being deliberately exterminated" (Al-Jazeera July 22, 2025).

The US Women's Caucus is particularly alarmed by the challenges Gazan women face in giving birth safely and caring for their newborn children. Pregnant women cannot get enough food to carry their pregnancies to term, and the rate of miscarriages and premature births has increased dramatically (UNFPA July 17, 2025). Hospitals throughout Gaza have been bombed repeatedly, including their maternity and neonatal wards, and premature infants in incubators have been endangered by interruptions in electricity (NBC News July 11, 2025). In extreme cases, premature infants have been abandoned to their fate during forced hospital evacuations (Washington Post Dec. 3, 2023). Mothers of newborns are too malnourished to breastfeed their babies and cannot obtain infant formula due to the blockade on humanitarian aid (Reuters July 31, 2025). Families cannot find enough food for their young children, whose small bodies waste away pitifully.

These horrific conditions have led to staggering numbers of casualties. Since the brutal attack on Israel in Oct 2023, when 1200 Israelis were murdered by Hamas militants, many of them women who were sexually assaulted and raped, 60,000 Palestinians have died, with women and girls making up 67% of casualties.

UN and health experts say that 2 million people in Gaza are food-insecure and as many as 500,000 are facing famine conditions (World Food Program July 29, 2025).

In recent weeks, over 150 Palestinians have died of starvation, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, most of them children. One in five children in Gaza are "acutely malnourished," the World Health Organization reports, after food, water, and aid supplies were severely curtailed in March. The UN has reported that over 1300 people have been killed and hundreds of others wounded while seeking food from inadequately supplied and poorly secured food distribution sites.

The US Women's Caucus stands in solidarity with the 28 countries that sent a message to Israel on July 21 saying simply, "The war in Gaza must end now," and emphasizing that Israel must "comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law" to lift the restrictions on the flow of aid.

The US Women's Caucus calls on the United States to use its influence with Israel to ensure the full, immediate, and unconditional resumption of humanitarian aid to Gaza, including food deliveries, water, vital medicine, maternity supplies, and baby formula.

It is time for a permanent ceasefire on all sides, the release of all remaining hostages, and the resumption of serious negotiations on the future of Gaza and the Palestinian people. We welcome the aims of the New York Declaration of July 30, 2025 with its commitment to a two-state solution, with Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace and security.

The next generation of Israelis and Palestinians deserves a lasting solution that enables them to live securely, peacefully, and with dignity alongside one another. They certainly deserve no less.

US feminists collaborating to advance human rights and gender equity for women and girls worldwide

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