



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

8 September 2026

I strongly welcome today the statement from the Foreign Secretary that the UK will impose a ban on goods and services from illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank as well as extending our sanctions regime. This is a crucial measure that will bring the UK in line with the International Court of Justice's ruling, with Canada, France and more allies set to join this action.

Today the UK has stated that the settlements and the wider Israeli occupation of Palestine is unlawful under international law, a position I have long held. Increased settler violence from illegal settlers backed by Israeli forces and Israeli ministers in government, is abhorrent and has resulted in systemic evictions and expulsion of Palestinian families and their communities. This escalation of settler violence and the planned expansion of settlements, notably the E1 settlement which effectively splits the West Bank, has increasingly threatened the prospect of a two-state solution, which stands to be the only viable path to peace.

Recognition of the State of Palestine is not enough while its communities are actively attacked and its land divided. We must not stand by while the prospect of a two-state solution withers away and this announcement shows that the UK is committed to upholding its obligations under international law and is committed to doing our part to ending the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

I have been actively advocating for the end to the illegal occupation of Palestine for many years in Parliament, including during my time as Shadow Minister for the Middle East where I also visited communities across the West Bank and witnessed first-hand the brutality of the illegal occupation. On behalf on many of my constituents, I have advocated for an end to the humanitarian aid crisis in Gaza, on arms to Israel and most recently joined cross-party MPs to call for this very policy of trade ban with illegal Israeli settlements.

I want to make clear that the rise of antisemitism in the UK, particularly directly linked to the Israel-Palestine conflict has been deplorable and that the Jewish community in my constituency and the wider UK must not be conflated with the actions of illegal settlers and the Israeli government. It is crucial that all communities, Jews and Muslims alike, must feel safe in the ability to live their lives free from harm and hatred. Hatred against communities have no place in a civilised society such as ours and we will continue to take action against it.

I will continue to stand with the UK Government in keeping the path of the two-state solution alive, which is the only viable path towards peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

*Bambos Charalambous*

Bambos Charalambous MP