

2 August 2025

Statement by ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy

On the ongoing atrocities against civilians in Gaza:

ALDA stands for Peace, Justice, and an End to the Massacres

As ALDA – the European Association for Local Democracy – we are gravely alarmed by the continued destruction, mass suffering, forced starvation and devastating humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza. What is taking place before the eyes of the international community is a profound human tragedy and a grave violation of international law, reaching the threshold of a genocide, as indicated in the [report A/79/363](#) of the Special Committee of the United Nations.

We strongly echo the numerous and ongoing statements made by United Nations experts, including the [report](#) by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese. We also support the [recent joint statements](#) by the foreign ministers of 31 countries and the EU Commissioner for Equality, Preparedness and Crisis Management, which affirm that “the Israeli government’s aid delivery model is dangerous, fuels instability, and deprives Gazans of human dignity.”

Furthermore, we endorse the call for an [immediate ceasefire](#) and **unimpeded humanitarian access** in Gaza, as demanded by over 100 humanitarian organisations whose work on the ground is of vital importance.

We unequivocally condemn the killing of tens of thousands of civilians, the use of starvation and forced displacement as weapons of war, the targeting of hospitals, schools, and places of refuge, and the deliberate obstruction of humanitarian aid. The situation in

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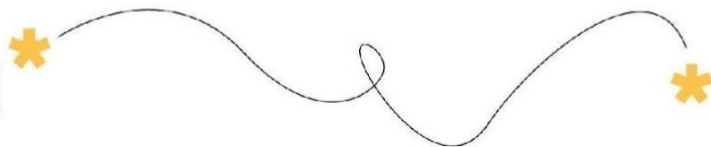
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Gaza is catastrophic: over two million people have been displaced, the majority of whom are children.

This is not merely a regional or political crisis — it is a profound human catastrophe and a moral test for the international community. As an organization committed to democracy, peace, and human rights, **ALDA reaffirms its unwavering opposition to all forms of aggressions against civilians, war, forced starvation, and violations of international law in Gaza and across the globe.**

ALDA's longstanding engagement in the region is reflected in its dedicated regional strategy for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) through the [ASWAT department](#), in the framework of which we actively support civil society and citizens in promoting dialogue and conflict resolution. Our relevance and commitment to the Palestinian cause are further reinforced by our long-standing membership in the Réseau Euromed France (REF) and the Anna Lindh Foundation — two networks with active members in Palestine, including in Gaza, and a strong focus on fostering peace, justice, and cooperation across the region.

This commitment was reaffirmed during our General Assembly in 2024, held back-to-back with the [IEMed](#) event, where ALDA presented its vision and position on the ongoing conflict. We actively contributed to the formulation of the [Barcelona Declaration on Reclaiming our Shared Humanity](#), a collective engagement to uphold the values of solidarity, human dignity, and coexistence.

As ALDA, we have also previously condemned the human rights violations in Palestine, through a collectively formulated statement, published in October 2024 the "[Statement on the ongoing war in Palestine and Lebanon](#)", in which we also called for an immediate ceasefire.

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ALDA advocates for a long-term, just solution based on the protection of human rights—supported by international institutions, that will allow all Palestinians to live in dignity and security.

In this spirit, ALDA is committed to mobilising its network of members and partners—both civil society actors and local authorities from Europe and beyond—to respond to the immense and growing needs in Gaza and Palestine, and to raise awareness within local communities about the severity of the humanitarian crisis and the need for immediate international solidarity and accountability.

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