

Sadaka Statement on Ireland's decision to recognise the State of Palestine **For release: 22.05.23**

We welcome the decision of the Irish Government, announced today, to recognise the State of Palestine. We see this as affirmation by Ireland of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and sovereignty. We commend the Government for its leadership on this issue within the European Union.

Monday's ground-breaking announcement by the ICC Prosecutor, made possible because of the UN's recognition of Palestine as a non-member observer State is indicative of the significance of decisions which, on the face of it, may seem symbolic.

Ireland now has a moral and political responsibility to ensure the Palestinian people's right to self-determination is followed through to full realisation.

This decision formalises Palestine's status as a country under occupation, rather than just an occupied 'territory.' Recognition brings responsibility in terms of the vast swathes of Palestinian land within the 1967 borders which Israel has defacto annexed for the construction of illegal settlements. These settlements also function as economic entities with which Ireland currently trades openly without condition or limitation. They are founded on the commission of war crimes. This, in our view, renders revenue generated by commercial activity in these settlements the proceeds of crime. Trade with Israeli settlements, which we have now formally declared to be part of the Palestinian state, must stop. The Government must re-visit its position on the Occupied Territories Bill in light of its decision to recognise the State of Palestine. The decision to recognise the State of Palestine must represent a significant departure in how we deal with illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land.

Inaction by the international community created Israeli impunity. This impunity, which has endured for decades, has unleashed the horror we have witnessed in recent months and which we continue to witness in Gaza. The Palestinian people have paid an unbearable price for the international community's inaction. We must learn from this and now act without delay to impose trade sanctions on the state of Israel. Ireland has assumed leadership on recognition; it must now take leadership on sanctions. We must eliminate the space in which Israel's impunity thrives.

Eamonn Meehan
Chair, Sadaka – the Ireland Palestine Alliance