



## Why Ireland should recognise the State of Palestine – NOW

For Ireland to recognise the State of Palestine now would be a powerful reaffirmation of its commitment to self-determination for the Palestinian people and to a two-state solution at a time when it is in danger of being killed off by Israel's relentless settlement expansion.

Sadaka believes that without pressure from the outside world Israel will never withdraw from the occupied territories so that a Palestinian state can come into existence. Recognition would put pressure on Israel to make constructive proposals for the establishment of a viable Palestinian state, which it failed to do during the most recent Kerry negotiations.

### Which states have recognised the State of Palestine?

In November 1988, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) declared the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and Gaza, territory which has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967. With this declaration, the Palestinian leadership accepted the objective of a state on just 22% of their historic homeland, with Israel continuing to exist in the other 78%.

In response to this declaration, about 90 states in the world recognised the State of Palestine almost immediately and granted the PLO full diplomatic relations. Today, 135 states do so, the latest being Sweden on 30 October 2014. In total, nine EU states have recognised the state of Palestine - Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Sweden.

In November 2012 the United Nations recognised Palestine and granted observer rights as a "non-member state". Parliaments in Belgium, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and the UK have all passed resolutions urging their governments to recognise the State of Palestine. The European Parliament has also adopted a resolution supporting Palestinian statehood in principle.

### Seanad and Dáil urge recognition of State of Palestine

On 22 October 2014, Seanad Éireann called unanimously on the Government to "formally recognise the State of Palestine and do everything it can at an international level to help secure a viable two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict". And on 10 December 2014, the Dáil followed suit, calling on the Government to "officially recognise the State of Palestine, on the basis of the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as the capital, as established in UN resolutions, as a further positive contribution to securing a negotiated two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict".

**Recognition of a Palestinian State:** Ireland should formally recognise the State of Palestine (implementing the Seanad and Dáil motions passed in 2014).