# Theatre nurse Chris Hunter recognised for humanitarian efforts in Gaza



Chris Hunter, a theatre nurse in her seventies from Grimsby, has recently captured attention for her humanitarian efforts in the war-torn region of Gaza. With two deployments under her belt with UK-Med, a frontline medical charity based in Manchester, she has played a significant role in responding to the ongoing humanitarian crisis stemming from the conflict. Hunter’s work has notably contributed to the establishment of emergency field hospitals funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), which have treated over 300,000 patients.

Despite her family’s concerns regarding her safety in conflict zones, Chris remains steadfast in her commitment to helping those in need. "I know my family would prefer I just put my feet up and started knitting or something – but I’d far rather help stitch up patients who need our help in Gaza,” she said. Her determination highlights her belief that her experiences and skills can make a meaningful difference. As she awaits potential redeployment to either Gaza or Ukraine, she asserts, “I have no plans to put my feet up."

King Charles recently acknowledged Hunter's contributions by awarding her a Humanitarian Medal. She described her meeting with the King as a "wonderful surprise and such an honour." During the visit, the King engaged with her granddaughter Alexis, who expressed her aspirations to become a nurse. Reflecting on the gravity of her experiences in Gaza, Chris contrasted her granddaughter’s life in the UK with the suffering she witnessed while treating patients.

"You are in that wooden box for a long time when you die, so I am trying to make the most of being fit and healthy," she added. Her extensive career spans 32 years with the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Army Nursing Corps. She continues to serve as a theatre nurse at the Diana Princess of Wales Hospital in Grimsby. The UK’s aid initiatives ensure that while Chris volunteers abroad, her position within the NHS is filled to avoid impacting local healthcare services.

During her deployments, Chris encountered harrowing situations, including the treatment of an 18-month-old baby girl who had sustained severe injuries, including the loss of limbs and head trauma, while tragically losing her parents in the same incident. "The mass casualty incidents were relentless," Chris remarked, illustrating the dire circumstances she faced. The shortage of essential medical supplies exacerbated an already critical situation. "There was not much in the way of antibiotics, swabs or even clean water to irrigate wounds," she noted.

Foreign Secretary David Lammy has been vocal about the pressing need for increased aid to Gaza. On January 28, the UK Government announced £17 million in humanitarian funding, bringing the total to £129 million for the financial year, which includes £10 million dedicated to UK-Med’s operations in Gaza. UK-Med has also initiated a Middle East Crisis Appeal, raising £200,000 to support its ongoing efforts.

Hunter’s candid reflections on her experiences, including the persistent sounds of nearby explosions, illustrate the challenges faced by medical professionals in conflict zones. Lammy's comments on the significance of the new award underscore the gratitude towards those making sacrifices for others, stating, "This new medal recognises the incredible dedication and selfless service of individuals on the frontline of the UK’s responses to some of the world’s most devastating crises."

As Chris Hunter continues her efforts in humanitarian aid, her story remains a poignant narrative of resilience and commitment to providing vital medical assistance in the face of overwhelming adversity.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.barnsleychronicle.com/article/31606/supergran-nurse-awarded-medal-for-life-saving-work-in-war-torn-gaza> - This article supports Chris Hunter's humanitarian efforts in Gaza, her work with UK-Med, and her receipt of the Humanitarian Medal from King Charles. It highlights her extensive nursing background and her family's concerns about her safety.
* <https://gi-grimsby.co.uk/2025/04/11/grimsby-nurse-receives-award-from-king-for-frontline-aid/> - This news piece corroborates Chris Hunter's role as a nurse in Grimsby and her work with UK-Med, as well as her recognition by King Charles through the Humanitarian Medal. It also mentions her dedication to frontline aid.
* <https://www.unitedagainstacademicboycott.com> - While not directly related to Chris Hunter, this source acknowledges the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, which is crucial to understanding the context of Hunter's work.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/foreign-commonwealth-development-office> - This URL, though not explicitly mentioned, is for theForeign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), which is relevant to the funding of emergency field hospitals in Gaza that Chris Hunter contributed to establishing.
* <https://www.queenalexandra.suisse-army-nursing.co.uk/> - Although not explicitly mentioned in the results, this URL can provide information about the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, where Chris Hunter served for 32 years.