# Pro-Palestine protest in London to proceed amid security and political tensions



Organisers of a pro-Palestine protest planned for central London this Saturday have confirmed they will proceed despite strong appeals from the Metropolitan Police and the Home Secretary to delay or cancel the event in light of a recent terrorist attack. The protest group, Defend Our Juries, which opposes the government’s ban on the pro-Palestinian organisation Palestine Action, insists that canceling peaceful demonstrations only serves to embolden terror. They anticipate around 1,500 participants, including a diverse group of priests, vicars, pensioners, and healthcare workers, with potentially hundreds more joining on the day without prior registration.

This planned demonstration, set to take place in Trafalgar Square, comes just days after a deadly attack at the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Manchester, where two people were killed and others injured. The attacker, a British citizen of Syrian descent, was neutralised by police following the assault. The attack has heightened security concerns and fears within Jewish communities across the UK.

The Metropolitan Police, led by Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley, expressed deep apprehension that resources are being diverted from protecting vulnerable communities towards policing the protest. The Met warned that if the protest goes ahead as planned, they will mobilise support from police forces across the country to ensure law and order. They stressed that many of the previous protests organised by Defend Our Juries led to mass arrests—over 1,400 people in recent months—for supporting the proscribed group Palestine Action. Commissioner Rowley emphasised the challenge police face in balancing community safety with managing demonstrations, calling the timing of the protest "likely to create further tensions" during a sensitive period of national mourning.

The Home Secretary, Shabana Mahmood, joined calls for the protest’s cancellation, describing the ongoing demonstrations as unhelpful and fundamentally un-British in the wake of the synagogue attack. She voiced disappointment at recent protests near Downing Street that resulted in 40 arrests, including six for assaults on police officers. Ms Mahmood urged protest organisers to consider the wider impact of their actions on community cohesion and public safety.

Defend Our Juries responded by expressing solidarity with the Jewish community and condemning the Manchester attack as terrorism. They criticised what they see as the government’s authoritarian crackdown on peaceful protests, arguing that postponing the march risks conflating the actions of the Israeli state with Jews worldwide, potentially stoking antisemitism. The group insists their protest is about opposing the UK government’s proscription of Palestine Action and condemning what they describe as genocide committed by the Israeli government, not about opposing any religious community. They reiterated their commitment to defending democracy, freedom of speech, and the right to protest peacefully.

The upcoming protest is expected to be the largest mass action defying the ban on Palestine Action, with pledges from 1,500 participants to risk arrest by displaying slogans such as "I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action." Organisers and rights advocates have highlighted the scale of arrests under the Terrorism Act 2000 since the ban’s introduction earlier this year, noting that critics see the government’s approach as a severe infringement on civil liberties and the right to protest.

Additional security measures will be in place across London for the weekend, including specialist Project Servator officers trained to detect potential threats and armed police ready for rapid deployment, reflecting the heightened sensitivity around public gatherings in the current climate. Police continue to work closely with event organisers to ensure security arrangements are robust.

This protest and the government’s response illuminate the ongoing tensions surrounding the contentious issue of Palestine Action and the UK’s measures to suppress it, set against a backdrop of recent violence that has intensified societal divisions. The situation remains fluid, with protests likely to continue even as authorities seek to maintain public order and community safety.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/defend-our-juries-vows-to-continue-with-protest-despite-pleas-from-met-PIKJXLRDKNMLVIMWWNW3FOWWLA/), [[4]](https://www.thecanary.co/uk/news/2025/10/01/defend-our-juries-4-october/), [[7]](https://bylinetimes.com/2025/10/01/1500-pledge-to-risk-arrest-at-largest-ever-protest-against-palestine-action-ban/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/defend-our-juries-vows-to-continue-with-protest-despite-pleas-from-met-PIKJXLRDKNMLVIMWWNW3FOWWLA/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-urges-cancellation-pro-palestinian-protest-after-synagogue-attack-2025-10-03/), [[3]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/met-urges-organisers-to-call-off-protest-following-manchester-attack-501755)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/defend-our-juries-vows-to-continue-with-protest-despite-pleas-from-met-PIKJXLRDKNMLVIMWWNW3FOWWLA/), [[3]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/met-urges-organisers-to-call-off-protest-following-manchester-attack-501755)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/defend-our-juries-vows-to-continue-with-protest-despite-pleas-from-met-PIKJXLRDKNMLVIMWWNW3FOWWLA/), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-urges-cancellation-pro-palestinian-protest-after-synagogue-attack-2025-10-03/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/defend-our-juries-vows-to-continue-with-protest-despite-pleas-from-met-PIKJXLRDKNMLVIMWWNW3FOWWLA/), [[4]](https://www.thecanary.co/uk/news/2025/10/01/defend-our-juries-4-october/), [[6]](https://defendourjuries.net/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[4]](https://www.thecanary.co/uk/news/2025/10/01/defend-our-juries-4-october/), [[7]](https://bylinetimes.com/2025/10/01/1500-pledge-to-risk-arrest-at-largest-ever-protest-against-palestine-action-ban/), [[6]](https://defendourjuries.net/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/defend-our-juries-vows-to-continue-with-protest-despite-pleas-from-met-PIKJXLRDKNMLVIMWWNW3FOWWLA/), [[3]](https://news.met.police.uk/news/met-urges-organisers-to-call-off-protest-following-manchester-attack-501755), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-urges-cancellation-pro-palestinian-protest-after-synagogue-attack-2025-10-03/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/defend-our-juries-vows-to-continue-with-protest-despite-pleas-from-met-PIKJXLRDKNMLVIMWWNW3FOWWLA/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-urges-cancellation-pro-palestinian-protest-after-synagogue-attack-2025-10-03/> - Following a deadly attack outside the Heaton Park Hebrew Congregation Synagogue in Manchester, where a man killed two people by driving into pedestrians and stabbing them, the UK government is urging the cancellation of a pro-Palestinian protest planned in London. The attacker, identified as Jihad al-Shamie, a 35-year-old British citizen of Syrian descent, was shot dead by police. Interior Minister Shabana Mahmood called for a pause in protests to allow the Jewish community time to grieve. The planned demonstration by the group Defend Our Juries is in response to the British government's July decision to ban the pro-Palestinian organization Palestine Action under anti-terror laws. Over 1,500 people, including many elderly demonstrators, have been arrested related to protests supporting the group. The Metropolitan Police have expressed concern that resources are being diverted from protecting communities following the Manchester attack to managing the protest in London, expected to gather over 1,000 participants. Defend Our Juries condemned the synagogue attack and criticized the police focus on protest arrests. Clashes during other protests led to 40 arrests near the Prime Minister’s residence shortly after the attack.
3. <https://news.met.police.uk/news/met-urges-organisers-to-call-off-protest-following-manchester-attack-501755> - The Metropolitan Police has urged the organisers of an event that could see more than 1,000 people gather in central London this weekend in support of a terrorist organisation to call off their plans. Defend Our Juries have organised an event in Trafalgar Square on Saturday afternoon which will involve people displaying placards in support of Palestine Action, a group proscribed by the UK Government. It is the third such mass law breaking event organised in recent months. The previous two events have seen a total of 1,422 people arrested, the vast majority for supporting a proscribed organisation. Saturday’s planned event comes just days after a terrorist attack at a synagogue in Manchester that saw two people killed and others seriously injured. Commissioner Sir Mark Rowley said: "The horrific attack in Manchester has caused significant fear and concern in communities across the UK, including here in London. Yet at a time when we want to be deploying every available officer to ensure the safety of those communities, we are instead having to plan for a gathering of more than 1, ... Trafalgar Square on Saturday ... a terrorist organisation."
4. <https://www.thecanary.co/uk/news/2025/10/01/defend-our-juries-4-october/> - Defend Our Juries is announcing today, Wednesday 1 October, that the mass action defying the Palestine Action ban will take place in Trafalgar Square this Saturday 4 October. Over 1,500 people have signed a pledge making a firm commitment to join the action and therefore risk arrest. The action confirmation comes after prime minister Keir Starmer’s conference speech. In it, he ignored the Labour membership’s demand that his government recognise Israel is committing a genocide – as confirmed by the UN Commission of Inquiry report – and takes action to stop it by imposing sanctions on Israel and a full arms embargo. Chancellor Rachel Reeves’ speech was also disrupted by a protester asking why the government is still arming Israel, saying: "Labour is complicit in the mass starvation of Palestinians." Although 1,500 have pledged to risk arrest for peacefully holding signs saying “I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action”, hundreds more are expected to join the action on the day without registering in advance. It will make this the biggest ever mass action defying the ban on Palestine Action. Police have arrested over 1,500 people for peaceful sign-holding under the Terrorism Act 2000 since the government brought the Palestine Action ban into effect on 5 July. This is more than six times the total number of counter-terror arrests in the whole of last year. The mass action in Trafalgar Square could see the total number of people arrested so far nearly double.
5. <https://www.stopwar.org.uk/events/lift-the-ban/> - The next Lift The Ban mass action will take place on 4 October at 1pm in London’s Parliament Square. The event is organised by Defend Our J ... , a group advocating for the lifting of the ban on Palestine Action, which has been proscribed by the UK government. The protest aims to challenge the government's decision and support the rights to peaceful protest and freedom of speech. The organisers have been actively campaigning against the proscription of Palestine Action, highlighting concerns over the implications for civil liberties and the right to protest.
6. <https://defendourjuries.net/> - Defend Our Juries is a campaign group advocating for the rights of jurors to acquit a defendant according to their conscience. The group has been actively involved in organising protests against the proscription of Palestine Action, a group deemed a terrorist organisation by the UK government. Their website provides updates on their activities, including mass actions and legal challenges related to the ban. The group emphasises the importance of defending democracy, fundamental rights to peaceful protest, and freedom of speech.
7. <https://bylinetimes.com/2025/10/01/1500-pledge-to-risk-arrest-at-largest-ever-protest-against-palestine-action-ban/> - A "mass action" against the Palestine Action ban will take place in Trafalgar Square this Saturday (4th October), with 1,500 people having signed a pledge making to join the action and risk arrest by pledging their support for the banned organisation. They will, as in previous protests, hold signs saying “I oppose genocide. I support Palestine Action.” Organisers Defend Our Juries believe hundreds more will join the action on the day without registering in advance – making it the largest such protest yet. The demonstration is part of a broader week of mass protests challenging the ban on Palestine Action, which has been deemed a terrorist organisation by the UK government.