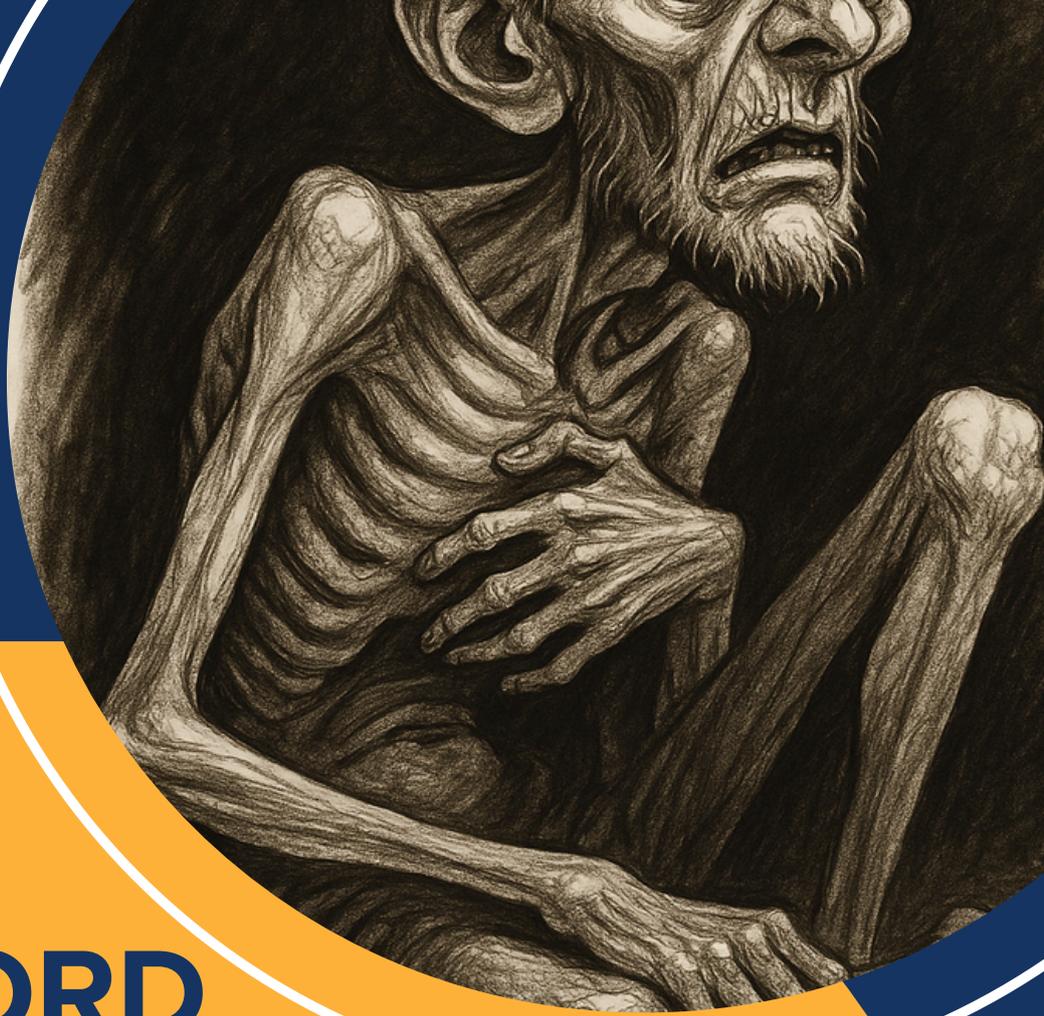




A TESTAMENT TO THE FORGOTTEN



2025



FOREWORD

There are moments in history that confront us not simply with suffering, but with the silent complicity of those who look away. This booklet was born out of such a moment—a moment when the world watched, and failed to speak, as Israeli hostages endured unimaginable torment, including the slow agony of starvation.

The deliberate withholding of food, water, and medical care from civilians—many of them elderly, wounded, or children—is not only an assault on the body; it is an assault on civilisation itself. These are not the unfortunate casualties of war, nor the tragic side-effects of conflict. They are the victims of calculated cruelty. And the silence that surrounds them, the diplomatic evasions, the journalistic omissions, and the moral equivocations, deepens the wound further.

To starve a human being in captivity is to desecrate the very essence of human dignity. In international law, it is recognised as a war crime, and when systematic, a crime against humanity. And yet, for reasons that reveal more about our age than any legal analysis could, these acts have not provoked the outrage, nor the consequences, they so plainly demand.

Catherine Perez-Shakdam - Executive Director We Believe In Israel



INTRODUCTION

In a world that prides itself on progress—where human rights are paraded across platforms and proclaimed in parliaments—there are still silences so deafening they shame our civilisation. The plight of the Israeli hostages held in Gaza is one such silence. It is an indictment of our collective conscience, a wound exposed not only by the cruelty of their captors, but by the indifference of those who claim to uphold international norms and humanitarian values.

These hostages—men, women, the elderly, children—were stolen from their homes and lives on the 7th of October. They were not combatants. They carried no weapons. And yet they have been subjected to conditions that defy both law and decency: held in darkness, deprived of food and medicine, denied access to the outside world, and stripped of every thread of dignity. They are being starved—not only of nourishment, but of recognition, of empathy, of the world's attention.

This is not merely neglect. It is a deliberate, systematic act of cruelty. It is a strategy of erasure. And it is, under the Rome Statute and the core conventions of international humanitarian law, a crime against humanity.

This booklet is a testimony—both a lament and a legal reckoning. It documents how starvation, abuse, and psychological torment have been weaponised against the hostages, and it demands that this suffering be acknowledged not as a footnote to conflict, but as a central and prosecutable offence. These are not private tragedies. They are public crimes.

To remain silent is to be complicit. To remain neutral is to endorse the dehumanisation of the vulnerable. We do not write these words to provoke pity. We write them to provoke action.

Let this publication serve not only as a record of pain, but as a summons to justice—for the hostages, for their families, and for the moral integrity of our international order.



THE CRIME OF STARVATION

Definition under International Law: Starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is prohibited under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Article 8(2)(b) (xxv)). The deliberate denial of food and medical aid to hostages amounts to both war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Eyewitness Accounts and Evidence: Recent video footage aired shows Israeli hostages with emaciated features, sunken eyes, and visible bone structure—clear signs of prolonged malnutrition. Survivor testimonies confirm deliberate deprivation.

Intentionality: The evidence points to a systematic strategy—not neglect, but weaponised starvation. This act must be condemned as an act of intentional cruelty.

PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE AND TORTURE

Beyond the Body—The Soul in Chains: These hostages are subjected not only to physical hunger but to the cruel erosion of hope. Isolation, the denial of sunlight, information, or contact, and the induced uncertainty of time and fate is psychological torture.

A Case Study in Inhumanity: Testimonies from former hostages describe environments of absolute control and humiliation, where the abuser's dominance is total. This is not collateral harm; it is methodical dehumanisation.

THE WORLD'S COMPLICITY THROUGH SILENCE

Selective Outrage: Human rights organisations and media outlets that rally instantly to global crises have met the suffering of these hostages with delay or detachment. In contrast to the immediate responses to crises elsewhere, the tepid acknowledgment here reveals a discriminatory moral compass.

A Carnival of Hypocrisy: Even as images of starving hostages surfaced, much of the world's press fixated on Gaza's suffering alone. The hostages' agony is not competitive grief—it is an independent atrocity deserving unequivocal outrage.



CALL TO JUSTICE

Legal Action: The UK and international bodies must launch formal inquiries into the treatment of hostages. The starvation of civilians must be prosecuted under international human rights law.

Diplomatic Pressure: The international community must treat hostage starvation as a red line. Aid, diplomacy, and recognition must be conditional on compliance with humanitarian obligations.

Public Awareness: Civil society must campaign tirelessly to spotlight this issue. From university campuses to synagogues and public forums, the stories of the hostages must be told—loudly and frequently.

A FEW LAST WORDS

In the Jewish tradition, to save a life is to save an entire world. Today, those worlds hang by a thread in the shadows of captivity. The hostages are not merely individuals—they are symbols of a global indifference that must be shattered. Their starvation is not a tragedy; it is a crime. This booklet is a call to action, a plea for justice, and an assertion that silence is not neutrality—it is complicity.

Let the world remember: one cannot claim to uphold human rights while ignoring the slow death of the innocent in the tunnels of Gaza. The hunger of hostages should haunt our every council, courtroom, and conscience.



IN THE WORDS OF HISTORY

“The opposite of love is not hate, it’s indifference.”

— Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel Laureate



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Share the Booklet

Distribute this document widely—within your community, to educators, journalists, faith leaders, and local influencers. Use it to start conversations rooted in facts, not slogans.

Speak Up

Challenge distortion wherever you see it—on social media, in meetings, and in everyday discussion. Replace emotional rhetoric with grounded arguments. Speak not just loudly, but wisely.

Join Our Campaign

Follow us online, sign up for campaign updates, and connect with the work of Stop The Hate UK , The Shield of David and partner organisations. Unity is our strength; momentum comes through collective resolve.

Hold the Line

The defence of truth, dignity, and democratic values begins at home. When we push back against appeasement and resist moral relativism, we reinforce the very principles that hold society together.

WE BELIEVE IN ISRAEL

At We Believe in Israel (WBI), our mission is to champion a fair, nuanced, and balanced understanding of the State of Israel. Our endeavours transcend mere political discourse, striving to encapsulate and represent the true essence of Israel in all its vibrant complexity. We are dedicated to fostering open and informed conversations that illuminate Israel's multifaceted nature, addressing and challenging the deep-seated biases against the Jewish State.



THE SHIELD OF DAVID

We are a UK advocacy group with members of all faiths, who recognise the danger of rising Antisemitism. Our aim is to make advocacy EASY and we provide regular email templates that can be swiftly signed and sent. We also aim to share and amplify the superb work being done by other Israel and Jewish campaign groups here in the UK



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