

# Why are limited sanctions on two Israeli ministers enou...

Published: January 14, 2026, 11:55 am

---

As was widely reported in the media last night, the UK has joined Australia, Canada, New Zealand and Norway in imposing sanctions against extremist Israeli politicians Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich. These two are far-right members of the Israeli cabinet who the UK has now said have “incited extremist violence and serious abuses of Palestinian human rights”.

I am sure that is true.

And the sanctions are welcome, but they hardly seem sufficient.

Why isn't every Israeli Cabinet minister sanctioned? These two have not waged war by themselves.

Why are we still selling arms to Israel if we know this to be the case?

Why is the RAF still flying reconnaissance flights for Israel?

Why aren't we sanctioning Israel?

Why aren't we calling what has been happening in Israel genocide?

Why aren't we making it clear that all involved have committed war crimes?

Why aren't we withdrawing our ambassador?

There is so much more that could be done, and still we are trading in token gestures.