

Starmer will not be recognising Palestine today: recogn...

Published: January 13, 2026, 5:27 pm

As the [Guardian notes](#) this morning:

The UK is expected to recognise a Palestinian state on Sunday after Israel failed to meet the conditions set out by Keir Starmer in July.

The prime minister is to make the announcement after concluding the humanitarian situation has deteriorated significantly in the past few weeks. The move comes despite pressure from the US and the families of hostages held by Hamas.

Except, as with everything in the Starmer world, what is said and what will happen are not the same thing. As [the Telegraph noted](#) in an email this morning:

Sir Keir Starmer will hit Hamas with new sanctions in an attempt to blunt criticism of his decision to recognise a Palestinian state.

The Prime Minister will harden his stance towards the terrorist group in a statement on Sunday, which will confirm that Britain intends to recognise an independent Palestine.

His approach will be seen as an attempt to placate Donald Trump, coming just days after the US president publicly criticised the UK's stance during his state visit.

You cannot recognise a state unless you do the three things.

The first is that you must recognise its free and independent existence.

The second is that you recognise its right to self-govern.

Third, you then must recognise its right to self-govern in the way it wants, and not in a way externally imposed on it.

Starmer is failing in all three. He is saying he will recognise Palestine but only if the Palestinians choose a government acceptable to Donald Trump (and by default, of course, Israel), which will then please him (showing who now truly governs the UK).

In other words, Starmer is not in any way recognising Palestine or the rights of the Palestinian people. At the same time, he is also refusing to acknowledge the lessons learned from past conflict societies, such as Northern Ireland and South Africa.

If Starmer thinks what he is doing will convince anyone of his good intent, then he is a fool.