



Understanding protests and the proscription of Palestine Action



What is a protest?

The right to protest is protected under the European Convention on Human Rights. Peaceful protest is a lawful way for individuals and groups to express opinions, raise awareness, or campaign for change.

The law protects the right to lawful protest, and policing supports these rights to legally allow voices to be heard. However, the law also protects people from racism, religious abuse and terrorism.

What is a proscribed organisation?

A proscribed organisation is an organisation or group that is illegal to join or show support for, because it has been identified as being concerned in terrorism.

The Home Secretary can choose to proscribe an organisation under the Terrorism Act 2000 (Section 3), if that organisation:

- Commits or participates in acts of terrorism
- Prepares for terrorism
- Promotes or encourages terrorism (including the unlawful glorification of terrorism); or,
- Is otherwise concerned in terrorism

Dozens of terrorist organisations are proscribed under the Terrorism Act 2000. The full list can be found on the Home Office website: Proscribed terrorist groups or organisations – GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

About Palestine Action

On 5 July 2025 the Government announced the proscription of Palestine Action.

Palestine Action is a UK-based protest group that has engaged in direct action campaigns primarily targeting sites associated with arms manufacturing and exports. Actions have included:

- Occupations of premises
- Property damage
- Road blockades and site disruptions



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The law

Once an organisation is proscribed there are a number of criminal offences that are associated with membership or showing support for that organisation.

Proscription makes it a criminal offence to:

- Belong to a proscribed organisation (Section 11)
- Invite support for a proscribed organisation (Section 12(1))
- Recklessly express support for a proscribed organisation (Section 12(1A))
- Arrange a meeting in support of a proscribed organisation (Section 12(2))
- Wear clothing or carry articles in public which arouse reasonable suspicion that an individual is a member or supporter of a proscribed organisation (Section 13) or
- Publish an image of an article such as a flag or logo in the same circumstances (Section 13A).

These offences can be committed both in the real-world, and online.

The sections contained in brackets above refer to the relevant section of the Terrorism Act 2000.

People can still:

- Participate in lawful protest – this can be supportive of Palestine
- Express political views, provided they do not breach the Terrorism Act 2000
- Advocate for human rights, peace, and justice causes- lawfully
- Display the national flag of Palestine (also referred to as the flag of the state of Palestine)

However, they need to:

- Be cautious of affiliation with proscribed groups and organisations
- Avoid acts that could be construed as supporting a proscribed group or organisation

Further advice

Home Office list of proscribed organisations:
www.gov.uk

If you see material supporting terrorism online report it – **visit www.gov.uk/ACT**

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