

**PRESS
RELEASE**

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UNITED STAFF FOR GAZA TO GATHER IN OBSERVANCE OF WORLD FOOD DAY

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United Staff for Gaza will gather to observe [World Food Day](#) on Thursday 16 October.

Members of United Nations Staff and related personnel will, in their private capacities, gather at **5pm Eastern Time (USA) at the monument to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the memory of Eleanor Roosevelt** in the north-east corner of the garden at United Nations Headquarters in New York. They will gather to reaffirm the right to food, as defined in Article 25 of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) and Article 11 of the [International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), and to voice sorrow, disapproval and outrage at the use of starvation as a weapon of war against civilian populations, in clear contravention of international law and basic principles of humanity.

They will express their great relief at the agreement to a ceasefire in Gaza and will redouble calls for the unrestricted supply of lifesaving humanitarian aid at scale, in the hope that the man-made famine in Gaza may be ended with the greatest possible urgency. They will honour the victims of starvation in Gaza. Empty pots and pans will be deposited in front of the monument to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Mrs. Roosevelt, as a symbol of hunger, and participants will be invited to lay white roses to the memory of victims of starvation and to observe a moment of silence.

The provisional agenda is as follows:

1. **Words of welcome by the United4Gaza Initiative.**
2. **Statement by Mr. [Michael Fakhri](#), United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.**
3. **Statement by Mr. [Jamie McGoldrick](#), Senior Adviser to United Staff for Gaza, former United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory.**
4. **Laying of white roses in honour of victims of starvation.**
5. **Observance of a moment of silence.**

United Staff for Gaza encourages colleagues in duty stations other than New York to mark World Food Day as well.

Colleagues are also encouraged to donate to the [Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund](#), managed by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Donating to the Fund is “one of the fastest and most efficient ways to support people in need,” OCHA says. The Fund “partners with dozens of trusted local NGOs and frontline responders who best understand community needs and can access areas others can’t.”

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Note to editors: World Food Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly on 5 December 1980, through resolution [A/RES/35/70](#), in recognition that “food is a requisite for human survival and well-being and a fundamental human necessity.” The General Assembly called for an annual observance of World Food Day on 16 October (in commemoration of the establishment of the Food and Agriculture Organization on 16 October 1945). The Food and Agriculture Organization encourages members of the public to participate in observances of World Food Day. “Around the globe, far and wide, join the World Food Day call to action with hundreds of events, from marathons and hunger marches to exhibitions, cultural performances, and concerts, all taking place in up to 150 countries,” the Organization [says](#).

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