

Scotland Calls for UK Support in Evacuating Wounded Gaza Children

July 20, 2025

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Scotland is urging cooperation from the United Kingdom Government to help evacuate severely injured children from Gaza for medical treatment, warning that further delays could cost innocent lives.

First Minister John Swinney has formally reached out to the Prime Minister, requesting assistance in enabling the safe passage of some of the estimated 2,000 children wounded

during the recent conflict in Gaza. Scotland has expressed readiness to offer urgent care through its existing healthcare infrastructure, yet Swinney reports that no official response has been received to date.

In a statement provided to the Press Association, Swinney stated, “It is deeply saddening that so far the UK Government has refused to even enter into a dialogue about medical evacuations for children in Gaza who, without proper medical attention, will be left to die.” He emphasised the dire conditions on the ground, noting that Gaza’s healthcare system is verging on collapse, with hospitals reportedly being overwhelmed, under-equipped, and regularly targeted.

Swinney warned that the situation has become a “race against time,” pointing to recent discussions with the children’s organisation United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) as the catalyst for his appeal. He reaffirmed Scotland’s commitment to doing “what is required to save the lives of as many of these kids as we can,” but noted that cooperation from Westminster is essential for processing the necessary UK visa clearances.

He continued, “We can’t do so without the support of the UK Government to get the children through the UK visa system and into Scotland.”

The United Kingdom Government responded by reiterating its ongoing humanitarian support for those in the region. According to a government spokeswoman, UK aid has delivered vital healthcare access to more than 430,000 people in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. She also referenced a separate initiative that has enabled children with complex conditions to access private medical care in Britain through Project Pure Hope.

The spokeswoman added, “We have been clear that the situation in Gaza is intolerable and that there must be an immediate ceasefire. We urge Israel to let vital humanitarian aid in and allow Gazans to receive urgent healthcare, including allowing the sick and wounded to temporarily leave the Gaza Strip to receive treatment.”

As calls for action grow louder, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza continues to intensify. The UK’s willingness to assist in targeted, medically necessary evacuations may prove decisive in saving young lives trapped in a region where access to healthcare is becoming increasingly limited.