

“What do we want? Land Justice! When do we want it? Now!”: An Open Letter from witches, magical, and pagan communities in solidarity with Congo, Palestine, Sudan

If you are a witch, pagan, magical practitioner or someone who practises any form of folk spirituality, divination or healing, please use this letter to start a conversation in your community and the link below to sign this letter. You may sign both as an individual and/or as a group: <https://tinyurl.com/openletterforlandjustice>

Your or your group's name will then appear at the bottom of the letter as a signatory.

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We, witches, ritualists, pagans, druids, mages, and other practitioners of magic, divination, folk spiritualities and healing, demand land justice everywhere while expressing our unequivocal support with peoples of Congo, Palestine, and Sudan. We are outraged by the genocides, land dispossession, mass displacement, apartheid, and ecocides they are facing. We are also appalled by the silence of the majority of magical and spiritual communities on these issues. We heed the call for solidarity from Congolese, Palestinian, and Sudanese peoples as well as global movements for land and climate justice; and demand an immediate and permanent end to the ethnic cleansing, genocidal violence, and wars being waged to further colonialism with the complicity of Western governments and institutions [1].

We write from the location of global north and Western imperial complicity, where historically, large-scale land enclosure, terrorizing ecocide and [land dispossession has gone hand-in-hand with the gruesome mass killings](#) of marginalised landworkers who were targeted as witches. The [inequality](#) and [intergenerational trauma](#) perpetuated by these witch hunts and land grabs continues to this day. Through past and present European colonialism, these white settler practices have been extended to [dispossess peoples of colour of their lands globally](#) and [to destroy their land-based spiritualities](#) and [magical knowledges](#). We thus see our struggles as witches and pagans as deeply intertwined with the anticolonial class struggles of all peoples globally, and recognise land justice as a key issue of concern for spiritual, magical, and healer communities.

We see the current investment of UK, EU, USA, and other global North nations to [support, fund, and arm](#) colonial and genocidal projects that create land injustice internationally as part of the continued settler and colonial investment in witch hunts and the related systematic destruction of spiritual and material land relations based in reciprocal magic.

As practitioners with magical and spiritual connections to the land, we also want to highlight the exploitative neocolonial global political economies, [including those of spiritual and wellness industries](#), which are enabled through colonialism, genocides, and land dispossession. Through [overharvesting white sage](#) for white witches and [healing crystals that exploit enslaved labour](#), spiritual and wellness industries today harm peoples of colour and destroy their lands and land-based cultural practices. We have also seen how the fossil fuel industry as well as the growth of renewable energy and [tech industries globally](#) serve to [greenwash land dispossession](#) and [modern day slavery in Congo](#). Additionally, Israel profits in the international economic and cultural spheres [through the destruction of olive trees](#) and [appropriation of Palestinian food cultures](#), while simultaneously attacking the food sovereignty of Palestinians, [who currently face catastrophic levels](#)

[of famine in Gaza](#). This has occurred through [decades of settler colonialism](#) carried on with Western complicity that has [destroyed traditional Palestinian land access, use, and cultures](#).

We are also deeply concerned by the increasing [weaponisation of spirituality and religion including via Zionism](#) and [white Christianity](#) to further settler, white supremacist, and fascist projects. In the past months, we have seen rising instances of racist hate speech rooted in spiritual fear-mongering, [including genocidal proclamations of “children of darkness” and “human animals.”](#) We find the proliferation and protection of such speech internationally to be woefully consistent with the [disenfranchisement, othering, and externalisation of Roma, Jewish, Black, and Muslim peoples from Europe](#), highlighting the [connections between multiple struggles](#).

We are cognizant of the ongoing whitewashing of international genocides, ecocides, and mass land dispossession via the large-scale [appropriation and tokenization of African, Indigenous-American, and Black and Asian spiritual and cultural traditions](#) by magical, pagan, and spiritual communities in the UK, USA, EU, and elsewhere. Implemented through tactics like [omwashing, hyper-individualised mental health and self-care, toxic positivity, orientalism](#) as well as [anti-black and racist Islamophobia](#), such whitewashing and tokenization of global majority spiritualities works to normalise ongoing genocides and ecocides as well as obscure the immense global violence of land dispossession.

A world that turns a blind eye to genocides, colonialism, and land injustice is not a world where responsible magic, spiritual justice, mental health or healing is possible. As witches and pagans, magic, folk healing, and spiritual practitioners, we must uproot systems of oppression wherever we find them, including within our communities. From Congo to Sudan, from Turtle Island to Abya Yala to Palestine, we support the fight for land back and confront the roles of Western governments in facilitating colonialism and imperialism globally. This political moment requires us to reflect on our connected struggles to show up in materialspiritual solidarity with the peoples of Congo, Palestine, and Sudan and demand land justice everywhere [2].

We are:



Witches Against Colonialism
Witches Against Genocide
Witches Against Apartheid

#LandBack
#NoJusticeNoPeace

[1] The development of principled solidarity with peoples living under colonialism and global land justice movements requires political education and reflection on the politics of our witchy, magical, pagan, and spiritual communities. On Congo, the [Friends of the Congo Primer](#) and [reading list](#) offer useful resources to understand how neocolonialism, modern day slavery, and land dispossession operate and are being resisted in the Congo. On Palestine, the [Palestinian Youth Movement reading list](#), [Decolonize Palestine](#), and [Teach-In videos](#) include invaluable resources on the history of Palestinian resistance to settler colonialism. The [Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement](#) is an international campaign to end support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians. On Sudan, [Keep Eyes on Sudan](#) has helpfully collated resources, reading list, and actions that provide important information about the [humanitarian disaster unfolding in Sudan](#) and how you can help.

[2] Inspired by [An Open Letter from the Climate Movement](#)