

Liberal Democrat Group amendment

Moved by Councillor Al-Hamdani

Seconded by Councillor Harkness

This Council calls for a lasting peace in Palestine & Israel.

The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have died in Gaza since the start of this conflict.

The conflict has had a deep and emotional impact on many Oldhamers, some of whom may have friends or relatives in the region.

Whilst this Council is limited in our ability to affect change in foreign policy, we have a duty to express the concerns of our residents.

This Council Notes:

- that the House of Commons passed a resolution backing calls for a ceasefire and the immediate release of hostages.
- that members of this Council, led by the Mayor Cllr Dr Zahid Chauhan and Leaders of all Political Groups, called for a ceasefire in early November.
- the international community is increasingly backing calls for a ceasefire and welcomes comments in this regard by the UK Foreign Secretary and US President but recognises that words are not enough, and Palestinian civilians need urgent action to prevent further loss of life.
- the International Court of Justice's provisional measures and expresses concerns at reports that Israel has failed to comply with this ruling.
- that Tell MAMA recorded over 2,000 incidents of anti-muslim hatred since October 7th – the largest volume of cases recorded in four months since Tell MAMA was founded in 2011.
- that the Community Safety Trust recorded 2,699 incidents of anti-Jewish hate between October 7th and the end of the year – totalling two-thirds of all incidents reported in 2023.

This Council:

- condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023 and the taking of hostages;
- condemns the scale of the Israeli military actions in Gaza where they have targeted civilian infrastructure, and not adhered to international law by making a clear distinction between military and civilian targets; and for imposing a total siege on the civilian population Gaza denying them adequate supplies of food, water, medicines and power
- reiterates calls for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza, and secure the release of hostages and detainees.

- urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, the creation of a viable Palestinian state, the two states living side by side in peace and security.
- recognises that a Palestinian state is key to lasting peace in the region, and that statehood is the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and not in the gift of any neighbour.

This Council further:

- resolves to support the Oldham Interfaith Forum and Community Safety Partnership to combat any incidents of Islamophobia and antisemitism in Oldham.
- supports diplomatic efforts to ensure rapid and unimpeded humanitarian relief is provided in Gaza.
- regrets that previous attempts to pass a ceasefire resolution at the UN Security Council have failed.

Believes an Israeli ground offensive in Rafah risks catastrophic humanitarian consequences and must not take place