

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

Moved by: Cllr Arooj Shah

Seconded by: Cllr Ros Birch

Amendment:

Moved by: Cllr Kamran Ghafoor

Seconded by: Cllr Abdul Wahid

The loss of civilian life in Palestine and Israel since October is intolerable, Save the Children estimates that over twelve-thousand children have **died** **been killed** 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.
- **as the occupying power, under international law, Israel has a clear obligation to ensure the basic needs of Gaza's population are met.**
- 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.
- **according to Human Rights Watch, Israel's policies in the occupied territories amount to apartheid and persecution, both crimes against humanity.**
- **The UN, Human Rights Watch, and humanitarian organisations have warned that starvation of civilians as a method of warfare is being used in Gaza. Starvation of the civilian population is illegal under International Humanitarian Law, and in direct breach of UNSC Resolution 2417.**
- that Tell MAMA recorded over 2,000 incidents of anti-muslim hatred since October 7<sup>th</sup> – 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 7<sup>th</sup> and the end of the year – totalling two-thirds of all incidents reported in 2023.

This Council:

- condemns the killing of 234 Palestinian in the West Bank by the state of Israel in the calendar year 2023 which preceded the attack carried out by Hamas on 7th October 2023
- condemns the terror attacks carried out by Hamas on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2023.
- condemns all acts of collective punishment which is prohibited under international law and amounts to a war crime including the statement made by leader of the Labour Party Sir Keir Starmer when he shared his belief in an LBC radio interview on October 11th that Israel had the right to continue bombing Gaza and cutting off electricity and water to its population of over 2 million people
- reiterates calls for an immediate **humanitarian** and permanent ceasefire, observed by all sides, to allow urgent aid into Gaza.
- urges all international powers to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state solution, with a safe and secure Israel alongside a viable Palestinian state.
- 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.
- resolves to support any action taken by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) following Israel's actions in Gaza which the ICJ has said places the civilian population at imminent risk of genocide.
- share details of *Save the Children's Stand with children open letter campaign calling for a ceasefire with every school 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