

Oldham Group Amendment to Administration

Motion 1: Recognising Palestine and the famine in Gaza

(Insertions in **bold**, deletions in ~~strikethrough~~ for Council papers)

Moved by Cllr Kamran Ghafoor

Seconded by Cllr Abdul Wahid

Next month will mark two years since the horrific attack of October 7th, leaked data from the IDFs own figures indicate a civilian death rate of 83% in the Gaza ~~war~~ **Genocide** that followed those attacks, causing experts from the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) to state “That proportion of civilians among those killed would be unusually high, particularly as it has been going on for such a long time.” **This level of civilian death is as a result of deliberate ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, deliberate act of forced starvation as a weapon of war consistent with the definition of genocide.**

When compared to conflicts tracked by UCDP since 1989, only the Rwandan Genocide, the Russian siege of Mariupol and Srebrenica have a higher proportion of civilian casualties.

The number of civilians impacted by this ~~war~~ **Genocide** in Israel and Palestine is unpalatable to thousands of people across Oldham. The war is having a profound effect on millions of people worldwide as we witness unimaginable suffering.

This Council notes:

- The UK Government’s announcement on 29 July 2025 that it will formally recognise the State of Palestine in September.
- The joint statement issued on 21 July 2025 by UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy and 28 international partners, which condemned the Israeli government’s aid delivery model as “dangerous, fuelling instability and depriving Gazans of human dignity,” and called for an “immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire”.
- The speech delivered by UK Ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward, on 23 July 2025, in which she described the Israeli aid system as “inhumane, ineffective, dangerous and fuelling instability,” and called for Israel to end attacks on civilians, cooperate with the UN, and uphold international humanitarian law.
- The official declaration by the United Nations backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and humanitarian agencies that famine conditions now exist in Gaza, with over 640,000 people facing catastrophic food insecurity and millions more in emergency or crisis conditions.
- The IPC concluded that the decision was based on evidence of extreme food deprivation, acute malnutrition and starvation-related deaths.

- That the famine is ~~a man-made disaster, resulting from prolonged conflict, displacement, and severe restrictions on humanitarian access~~ **not a natural disaster but a deliberate act of forced starvation as a weapon of war, consistent with the definition of genocide.**
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This Council believes:

- That recognition of the State of Palestine is a vital step toward a just and lasting peace in the region.
 - That the current humanitarian crisis in Gaza ~~demands urgent and coordinated international action to prevent further loss of life~~ **is the result of deliberate ethnic cleansing, collective punishment, and mass displacement that demands urgent accountability as well as humanitarian action.**
 - That Israel should immediately allow full and unrestricted humanitarian aid agencies into Gaza to immediately address the ~~famine~~ **man-made famine and forced starvation.**
 - That the UK Government's recent statements reflect a ~~growing international consensus on the need for accountability, humanitarian access, and a political resolution~~ **failure of moral clarity when they praise "moral leadership" while continuing to arm and politically shield Israel.**
 - That local authorities have a role to play in advocating for human rights, peace, and justice globally as our residents care deeply about these issues **and local authorities must not collude in the sanitisation of atrocity crimes. Our residents deserve honesty: this is genocide and ethnic cleansing, not simply a "humanitarian crisis."**
 - That residents across Oldham have displayed their commitment to supporting aid efforts and minimising suffering in Gaza by raising awareness and fundraising for charities.
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This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Welcome and support the UK Government's commitment to recognise the State of Palestine as part of a renewed peace process. ~~Given that the Israeli Government hasn't complied with the steps outlined by the UK Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary in July this Council reaffirms that now is the time for recognition of Palestinian statehood.~~ **This Council reaffirms that recognition is long overdue and must be accompanied by a full suspension of UK arms sales to Israel and support for international accountability.**
2. Endorse the joint statement of 21st July 2025 and the UK's position at the UN Security Council as expressions of ~~moral leadership and international solidarity~~ **diplomatic progress, while recognising they fall short of calling out genocide and forced starvation by name.**
3. Urge the UK Government to ~~accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance to Gaza, including through further diplomatic pressure for a ceasefire and unrestricted aid access~~ **acknowledge genocide, suspend arms sales to**

Israel, accelerate and expand humanitarian assistance, and demand unrestricted aid access.

4. Call on the international community to intensify efforts to end the famine and support long-term recovery and governance in Gaza.
5. Write to the Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, and local MPs ~~expressing this Council's support for recognition of a Palestinian state and humanitarian action~~ **calling not only for recognition of a Palestinian state but also for explicit recognition of genocide, suspension of arms sales, and support for international criminal accountability.**