

Notice of Motion – Councillor Andrew Parkhurst - Israel-Gaza

Council condemns the awful terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas in Israel on 7th October.

Council is horrified by the scenes of violence in the weeks and days since, in particular the devastating humanitarian situation in Gaza where over 10,000 Palestinians have already been killed and hostages are still being held by Hamas.

Council supports Israel's right to protect its citizens, in line with international law, which means targeting terrorists, not civilians, and ensuring that innocent Palestinians do not pay the price for Hamas' actions.

Council expresses its concern at the UK Government's failure to attempt to ensure that the Israeli government and its military adhere to the requirements of international law.

This Council believes:

A military solution alone will not achieve peace for Israelis or Palestinians.

The values of equality, democracy, human rights and the international rule of law are of fundamental importance.

All combatants must act in accordance with the rules of war and international humanitarian law.

The remaining hostages held by Hamas must be released.

Essential supplies of water, food, medicine and electricity must be restored to Gaza, and the passage of aid into Gaza must be facilitated.

That it is wrong to collectively blame Jews for the actions of their government or Palestinians for the actions of Hamas in general, and particularly where those peoples are resident within Flintshire.

Council accordingly resolves to ask the UK Government to call for an immediate ceasefire in order to:

- a. Facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid into Gaza
- b. Provide an opportunity to realise the release of the remaining hostages
- c. Allow for an intensive period of diplomacy to realise a political solution, aimed at achieving a lasting peace.

Council notes with deep concern the severe reverberations of this crisis in the UK, with Jewish, Muslim and Palestinian communities all fearing and grieving, and condemns the rise in antisemitism and Islamophobia since 7 October.

Council calls upon the residents of Flintshire, community leaders and public figures to act responsibly and work to bring communities together at this sensitive time.

Council calls upon Welsh Government to set up a Homes for Palestinians scheme in anticipation of and to facilitate the temporary housing of refugees from the conflict.