

## **Item 16 - Labour Group Amendment (Motion as amended)**

### **“This Council notes**

1. That East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Gaza are internationally-recognised as being under illegal occupation by Israel; and that Gaza has been subject to 16 years of blockade;
2. That the Israeli government has been withholding essential humanitarian resources from Gaza which has resulted in starvation and the denial of medicines to innocent civilians;
3. That under Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, genocide is defined as certain acts “committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group” and that, under Article I, the UK has confirmed that genocide is a crime under international law which it undertakes to prevent and to punish;
4. That the intentional directing of attacks against a civilian population who are not partaking in hostilities - or civilian objects which are not military objectives - are defined as war crimes under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
5. That the BBC reports that nearly 100,000 buildings have been damaged in Gaza. These include schools, hospitals and civilian properties – and a number of civilian hospitals have been rendered non-functional due to damage and a blockade on energy and fuel.
6. The impact of conflict on displacing people from their homes makes them asylum seekers and refugees who then flee, which further compounds challenges in the asylum system;
7. The deep concern expressed about the conflict in Gaza and Israel by tens of thousands of people across Kirklees.
8. That the Hamas attacks on 7 October were the deadliest attack on the Jewish community since the end of the Holocaust;
9. That around 240 civilian hostages were taken by Hamas in their attack on 7 October – and many are still being held hostage today.
10. That the Geneva Convention defines ‘the taking of hostages’ as ‘grave breaches’ and are defined as War Crimes by Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.
11. That all nations have a right to self-determination and self-defence, but these must be conducted within international law.

### **This Council believes**

1. All atrocities committed against civilians by Hamas or the Israeli Defence Force must be condemned in the strongest possible terms and investigated by the appropriate international authorities;
2. That the ceasefire which was secured between 24–30 November – whilst a number of hostages were released – provided a much-needed respite for desperate civilians and aid agencies in Gaza and demonstrated that hostilities can cease if there is the political will by the actors in the region to do so.
3. All political leaders have a responsibility to try to prevent genocide, such as the annihilation of the civilian population of Gaza, Hamas’, and the Houthis movement’s call for the annihilation of Jewish people, and any other innocent civilian population facing such appalling circumstances;

4. All forms of racism, including anti-Palestinian racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia have no place in Kirklees and we condemn any attacks on Palestinian, Jewish or Muslim people;
5. That Hamas do not represent the Palestinian people – and the Palestinian people are not Hamas.
6. That Hamas must release all hostages and all attacks on civilians, whether they be Israeli or Palestinian, must end;
7. That the UK has a historic role in this conflict and therefore has a responsibility to play its part in supporting the innocent civilians caught up in this conflict now and trying to secure a long term peace.
8. In the long term there can only be a political solution to this crisis.
9. The hard work of talks for a two-state solution of a safe and viable Palestinian state alongside a safe and secure Israel must be restarted immediately to deliver a permanent peace.

**This Council therefore resolves to:**

1. Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the UK government, requesting it to call for a ceasefire, the release of all hostages and for the UK government to use its position on the global stage to advocate not just for a ceasefire, but for a lasting peace with a two state solution - and for the UK government to vote in this manner at the United Nations; as well as calling for a review of all UK arms sales;
2. Re-state its commitment to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of Antisemitism and the All-Party Parliamentary Group on British Muslims' definition of Islamophobia, as part of its commitment to eradicating racism and discrimination from our communities.”