

## **Agenda Item 18.**

### **Amendment to the Motion: Demand for Lasting Peace in Gaza/Middle East**

To consider the following amendment submitted in the names of Councillors: Moore, Scott, Hussain, Anwar, Daji, H Zaman, A Zaman, Masood Ahmed, Bramwell, Kahut, Safdar and Darwan;

“This Council notes that Kirklees is a district celebrated for its tolerance, inclusivity and strong stance against all forms of discrimination. This enables our many and diverse communities to live together in unity.

#### **Delete the remaining text and insert the following:**

“The current illegal war on Gaza is inflicting intolerably horrifying suffering on innocent men women, babies and children and continues to be the cause of much pain and concern to all communities here in Kirklees. We stand firmly in solidarity with all those suffering from Israel’s genocide on the helpless, defenseless Palestinians, who have had their brains and limbs blown to smithereens and against all forms of prejudice, including racism, antisemitism, islamophobia and ethnic cleansing. The war in Gaza is not a conflict, it is a genocide, a deliberate act to systematically eradicate the Palestinians from Palestinian land, for an indefinite period. Israel’s Defense Forces are Known to be one of the most equipped militaries across the globe, it is one of the best trained armies in the world and for the past 76 years Israel has been annexing Palestinian land.

This Council notes that Kirklees is a district celebrated for its tolerance, inclusivity, and strong stance against all forms of discrimination. This enables our many and diverse communities to live together in unity.

This Council further notes that almost a year on from the start of the recent illegal war in Gaza:

- a) Israel’s ground and air campaign in Gaza has killed more than 39,324 people, and this number is growing daily. Innocent men, women, and children have been killed, with many more missing in the debris of Gaza. It is estimated that over 90,000 Palestinians have been injured during this conflict. Most of the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza have been displaced from their homes. Approximately 1,478 Israelis have been reported as killed.
- b) Gaza is being razed to the ground. There has been indiscriminate bombing of refugee camps, medical facilities, schools, places of worship, and the general infrastructure.
- c) Aid is still not getting into Gaza in the quantity needed due to interference by the Israeli Government. This has resulted in widespread malnutrition, and the remaining medical facilities are operating without even basic medical supplies.

- d) The Israeli government is guilty of war crimes and breaches of International Humanitarian Law. These crimes have included murder, the intentional targeting of civilians, killing prisoners of war and surrendered combatants, indiscriminate attacks, collective punishment, starvation, the use of human shields, sexual violence and rape, torture, pillage, forced transfer, breaches of medical neutrality, targeting journalists, attacking civilian and protected objects, wanton destruction, incitement to genocide, and genocide. It should be noted that these crimes by the Israeli defense forces have been ongoing since 1948, creating an Apartheid State within the Palestinian Territories of Gaza and the West Bank.
- e) The International Court of Justice has declared the situation in Gaza to be genocide.
- f) Many residents of Kirklees remain gravely concerned about the ongoing situation in Gaza and wish to see an end to the genocide and for the perpetrators to be brought to justice for war crimes.
- g) A leadership change in Israel is needed. It appears increasingly clear that a ceasefire will not happen with Netanyahu and his supporters in control of Israel's policy and military.

We stand firmly in solidarity with all those suffering from genocide and against all forms of prejudice, including racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism.

This Council condemns the loss of civilian life, the destruction of property, homes, essential civilian infrastructure, and the taking of hostages.

Furthermore, this Council:

- (ii) Calls for the immediate, unconditional, and safe return of all hostages.
- (iii) Acknowledges and endorses the positive move by the UK government to recommence funding for UNRWA to help mitigate the suffering of displaced people who are victims of violent conflict.
- (iv) Calls for more to be done to provide unimpeded and desperately needed humanitarian aid to all parts of Gaza, including food, water, medicine, and fuel.
- (v) Calls for international law to be upheld and for a secure two-state solution to be urgently sought.
- (vi) Acknowledges the efforts made by local community leaders and key representatives working to bring communities together (along with the Police and the Council) and calls for this work to continue to maintain community cohesion in Kirklees.
- (vii) Applauds the UK government for stating that it will not pursue an objection to the International Criminal Court (ICC) issuing an arrest warrant for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

(viii) This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and Foreign Secretary David Lammy, requesting the following:

Revoke all licenses allowing the selling of arms and military equipment to Israel until the Israeli Government halts the ongoing genocide in Gaza, ceases occupying the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, abides by the International Court of Justice rulings, and complies with the numerous United Nations resolutions.

Lobby their Israeli counterparts to allow immediate and unfettered aid into Gaza to address the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

Use all diplomatic channels to call for a permanent and lasting ceasefire, placing Gaza under the control of the Palestinian Authority and ensuring that both Israeli and Palestinian hostages are returned.

We ask that the Palestinian flag be flown at Huddersfield, Batley, and Dewsbury Town Halls in remembrance of those who have died. This would be at no expense to local council taxpayers as the flags would be purchased by a local group.

We ask that Kirklees Council, where lawful and practical, avoid purchasing goods from Israeli companies illegally occupying the Palestinian Territories.

That Council requests that Cabinet commits to conducting a thorough review of its procurement practices to ensure that goods and consumables sourced from companies directly or indirectly involved in the conflict are not used.

This Council calls for lasting peace in Gaza and the Middle East.”