

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 JD Lawson, Arshad, Bramwell, Anwar, Kahut, Safdar;

Paragraph 1 – Delete the words ‘This Council notes that’

Paragraph 2 – Delete the words ‘The current conflict in Israel and Gaza is inflicting intolerable suffering on innocent victims and continues to be the cause of much pain and concern to all communities here in Kirklees’ And replace with:

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

a) Innocent men, women and children have been killed. Current reported figures state over 41,000 have been killed with many more missing in the debris of Gaza. It is thought that that over 95,000 Palestinians have been injured during the course of this conflict. Most of the 2.3 million Palestinians living in Gaza have been driven from their homes.

b) Gaza is being raised to the ground. There has been indiscriminate bombing of refugee camps, medical facilities, schools, places of worship of all denominations and the general infra structure. Over 50% of all homes have been destroyed along with half of all hospitals.

c) Aid is still not getting into Gaza in the quantity needed due to interference by the Israeli Govt this has resulted in widespread malnutrition and the remaining medical facilities running without even the basic of medical supplies.

d) That the Israeli government is guilty of war crimes and breaching International Humanitarian Law. And 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) That many residents of Kirklees remain gravely concerned about the ongoing situation in Gaza and wish to see an end to the genocide in Gaza and the perpetrators brought to justice for war crimes

g) That 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 government.’

After the words ‘Furthermore this Council...’

Delete Paragraph (i)

Add the following words to the end of Paragraph (ii) and innocent Palestinians held without trial in Israeli prisons'

Delete Paragraphs (viii) and (ix) and insert the following text as a new paragraph (viii);

'This Council calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer and to the Foreign Secretary David Lammy to immediately request the following:

To revoke all UK licenses which allow the selling of arms and military equipment to Israel until a time the Israeli Government stops the on-going genocide in Gaza, ceases to occupy the Palestinian Territories of the West Bank and Gaza, abides by the IJC rulings and the numerous United Nations resolutions. That the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary lobby their Israeli counterparts to immediately allow aid to Gaza unfettered by obstructions, in a bid to halt the humanitarian crisis that is occurring within Gaza. And that the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary use all diplomatic channels at their disposal to call for a permanent and lasting ceasefire which sees Gaza under the control of the Palestinian Authority without interference from the Israeli. That both Israeli and Palestinian Hostages are returned along with those Palestinians held without trial in Israeli prisons.

We ask that the Palestinian Flag be flown at Huddersfield, Batley and Dewsbury Town Halls in an act of remembrance for 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 at all lawful and practical to avoid purchases of goods from Israeli companies illegally occupying the aforementioned Palestinian Territories.

That the 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.

In the final line, delete the word 'therefore' and add the words ',The West Bank' after the word 'Gaza'.