

East Lothian Council
27 February 2024

Item 7: Motion Calling for a Ceasfire in Gaza and for the UK Government to Reinstate UNRWA Funding
Amendment Submitted by Councillors McMillan and Forrest

East Lothian Council notes the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza, with 28,000 civilians dead and 2 million people now at risk of starvation as a result of Israeli military action, with 10,000 Palestinian prisoners, including 250 children in Israeli jails (noting that more than half of the population of Gaza is under 18) and over 100 hostages still in captivity from the Hamas terror attack on 7 October.

East Lothian Council:

- Condemns the Hamas terror attack of 7 October and calls for the immediate release of all hostages and for internationally supervised and agreed release of prisoners and inspection of their welfare conditions;
- Equally, condemns the indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza by the Israeli Defence Force;
- Stands in solidarity with all victims of this violence and urges an immediate ceasefire to avoid further suffering;
- Notes that the UNRWA Commissioner-General recently warned that the entire aid operation in Gaza is at risk of collapse and that Medecins Sans Frontieres has declared there to be no functioning health care system in Gaza;
- Condemns the rise of anti-Semitism and Islamophobia in our communities;
- Recognises that any response must fall within the bounds of international humanitarian law.
- Recognises that for a ceasefire to be successful and sustained, both sides must comply.
- Notes that the House of Commons voted to call for an immediate and lasting humanitarian ceasefire on 21 February 2024, and that the Scottish Parliament voted for a ceasefire on 21 November 2023; and
- Notes and echoes the International Court of Justice's call for Israel to take all measures to prevent genocidal acts in Gaza.

Accordingly, Council asks the Provost of East Lothian Council to write to the First Minister and the Foreign Secretary to ask them to:

- Act upon the call of both parliaments to call for a ceasefire and build a lasting peace process;
- Do all within their diplomatic powers to contribute to the call from around the international community for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire;
- Urge the international community to reinstate humanitarian aid to be allowed into all affected areas and work together to rebuild and restore communities; and
- Call for a two-state solution, including security for Israel and justice for Palestine, recognising the statehood of both and the desire for long-lasting peace and understanding in the region.