

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No.13
24 January 2024	PUBLIC REPORT

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1. Motion from Councillor Rangzeb

Peterborough Cease Fire Motion

Peterborough is rich in diversity because of the city being multi-ethnic, multi-cultural and multi-faith where the residents of this city are living in peace and harmony.

Residents of our city have been rightly appalled by the huge escalation of violence and deaths in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Many residents have approached local councillors to get an official response from their council to call for an immediate ceasefire and a negotiated release of hostages arrested since 7th October 2023.

Council notes:

That on 7th October 2023 Hamas launched a horrific attack on the state of Israel, resulting in the death of around 1,200 Israeli citizens and the abduction of 240 people including children, in contravention of the Geneva Convention.

Since that attack, Israeli forces have dropped 6,000 bombs on Gaza, one of the world's most densely populated places, home to 2.2 million trapped Palestinians (of whom almost half are children).

As of 31 December 2023, over 22,000 Palestinians, at least 8,000 of whom were children, have been killed, with 57,000 injured and more than 1 million displaced, by Israeli forces. 352 schools have been damaged. 26 out of the 35 hospitals across Gaza are non-functional.

Collective punishment is against international law under the Geneva Convention.

The Israeli government has cut off water, food and electricity to Gaza which is a war crime under International Law.

There has been a 16-year illegal blockade of Gaza, an occupation in the West Bank, including in our twin city of Ramallah, and major NGOs say there is a system of apartheid.

Hamas continue to send missiles into Israel, between October 2023 and January 2024 more than 10,600 rockets and mortar shells were launched at Israel, with 10% of them failing.

Council believes that:

There must be an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza.

Humanitarian aid must be delivered to all civilian's in the hostilities.

Neither the actions of the Israeli government nor Hamas will contribute to a just peaceful resolution.

The British government must work with all relevant partners to establish a permanent peaceful solution in Israel/Palestine.

The killing of all civilians and atrocities committed against civilians in both the ongoing bombardment of Gaza by Israeli forces and the Hamas attacks are horrific and must be condemned.

Polls show over 70% of the British public surveyed support a ceasefire, which has been called for by the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, UNICEF, Save the Children, the head of the WHO, and Oxfam.

There are major concerns about the Israeli army and settler violence and intimidation of Palestinians in the West Bank and Ramallah, areas that have no connection with any Hamas attacks.

Antisemitism, Islamophobia, racism and hate crimes of all forms, including against Jewish or Muslim communities and places of worship, have no place in Peterborough.

Council agrees to:

Request the Council Leader to:

1. Write to both of Peterborough's MPs, demanding that they call for an immediate, permanent ceasefire.
2. Write to the Foreign Secretary asking him to:

Work to ensure full access for humanitarian aid is granted in Gaza.

Seek an immediate unconditional release of all hostages.

Call for Palestinians in arbitrary military detention to be given access to justice through an independent, non-military system.

Raise concerns about Israeli army and settler violence in the West Bank.