

Council Meeting

14 February 2024

Motion submitted by Councillor Carr under Council Procedure Rule 14

Ceasefire in Palestine/Israel

This Council notes with growing alarm the climbing death toll of Palestinian civilians subject to Israeli bombardment. The systematic destruction of residential buildings, mosques, and churches and attacks on hospitals have destroyed Gaza's social infrastructure leading to many civilian deaths.

The situation in Gaza is profoundly disturbing to many residents of Calderdale who have links with, or feel affinity for, those directly affected be they from the Palestinian or Israeli communities. Local residents, especially those from the Jewish, Muslim and other faith communities, look to this Council to provide civic leadership that expresses their concerns on this issue.

This Council acknowledges the call for an immediate ceasefire, an end to the occupation of Palestinian territory and to the 16 year long blockade of Gaza, and respect for Palestinian rights including the right to self-determination and the right to return.

Only through this process can a lasting peace for both Israelis and Palestinians be achieved, that is consistent with international law.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Call on the UK government (specifically, through the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) to support an immediate ceasefire
2. Request that the borough's two MPs also support such a ceasefire, and
3. Welcome and support displaced Palestinian refugees in Calderdale as part of the City of Sanctuary scheme.

Seconded by Cllr Bellenger