

Council Meeting

14 February 2024

Motion submitted by the Leader, Councillor Scullion under Council Procedure Rule 14

Call for compassion and an end to conflict in the Middle East

This Council notes and acknowledges:

- The impact that the conflict in the Middle East is having on many citizens in Halifax and other communities in Calderdale.
- That Calderdale is a global place. People have friends and family in many parts of the world. What happens in Palestine and Israel matters to us, and as councillors we have had representations from our residents whose families have been affected by these events.
- That there have been peaceful demonstrations across Calderdale.
- That thanks are due to West Yorkshire Police for their responsible and respectful policing of these demonstrations.
- That the Council has heard the concerns of communities across the borough and joins with them in asking for an immediate and permanent ceasefire.
- That we understand there are great differences in how people view the conflict and the solutions to bring peace to the area, but despite those differences we want to see peace, safety, dignity, and security across the region.
- That we are appalled by the extreme violence and thousands of civilian lives lost since October 2023, and horrified by the events we have seen unfolding daily on our TV screens as people, including children, are displaced and suffering.
- That we believe that the international rule of law must be respected and that where there is evidence of war crimes prosecution must take place.

The Council therefore resolves to:

- Work together with key representatives and community leaders across the borough towards a common objective of ensuring that people can continue to feel safe in Calderdale and live without fear of intimidation, harassment, or hatred.
- Call for a total cessation of hostilities, the release and return of all hostages, proper access to food and water, medical supplies, and access to health services; and beyond that a lasting resolution to deliver peace and a long-lasting solution that allows states to live in peace.
- Record its unequivocal condemnation of the conduct of the Israeli government in its campaign which has meant 1.5 million people have been displaced, some several times.
- Unequivocally condemn the terrorist attacks by Hamas against civilians in Israel, including the use of violence against women and girls.
- Continue to take a stand against Islamophobia, antisemitism, and all forms of hatred.

- Offer a kind and compassionate welcome to displaced Palestinians, reaffirming our commitment as a Valley and local authority of sanctuary.