

Agenda Item 15a

Ordinary Council Meeting of: 12 December 2023
Cllr Corkery/Cllr Mellor

AGENDA ITEM 15a - Ceasefire in Gaza

Amendment:

To add the below three paragraphs to the end of the motion:

"Full Council expresses its solidarity with the people of Gaza who in recent weeks and months have been subjected to horrific bombardment resulting in widespread death and destruction. As a practical way of displaying that solidarity Full Council asks the Cabinet and the Twinning Advisory Group to explore, and report back on, Twinning Portsmouth with a Palestinian city.

Full Council believes that a permanent ceasefire is the only way to move towards a lasting peace in the region.

Full Council therefore asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Foreign Secretary and our two city MPs outlining this position and requesting their support in lobbying for this necessary resolution to the conflict."

Proposed by Councillor Cal Corkery

Signed _____

Seconded by (Name) Councillor Kirsty Mellor

Signed _____

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Amendment to Motion 15(a)

Proposed by: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] Councillor Heaney

Seconded by: [REDACTED] Councillor Fielding

After the sentence ending "with a particular role to be played by Arab neighbours" insert the following:-

"Breaches to International law

Allegations of breaches of international humanitarian law should always be treated with utmost seriousness. Assessing specific allegations is the proper task of lawyers and competent international courts.

Council reaffirms its support for the UK's commitment to the rules-based international order, international humanitarian law and the jurisdiction of the ICC to address the conduct of all parties in Gaza and Hama's attacks on Israel

Wider violence in the West Bank

We totally condemn acts of violence and extremism by Israeli settlers in the West Bank and call on the Israeli authorities to prevent settler violence, ensure accountability for perpetrators and condemn extremist rhetoric.

Council calls on the UK government to do all it can to work with the international community to avoid further escalation in the West Bank and the wider region.

Towards a two-state solution

We want a return to the truce we saw last week to protect civilians, prevent displacement, ensure humanitarian access, and release hostages. The international community can and must use the next cessation to make political progress towards what we all want an end to conflict and a permanent ceasefire. That means creating the conditions where Israel is secure from another attack like October 7 and Palestinians can see a path to statehood and the reconstruction and renewal of Gaza.

Therefore the Council calls for the immediate release of all hostages and for the Government to do all it can to ensure an enduring cessation of fighting as soon as possible and a credible, diplomatic and political process to deliver the lasting peace of a two-state solution."

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