

Israel, Gaza and the rest of Palestine

This Council:

- Expresses deep sympathy for all those affected by the conflict in Israel and Palestine. To those in the Borough of Stockport who have been affected by this conflict we offer our support in this difficult time.
- Condemns the murder of Israeli civilians, the taking of hostages by Hamas and subsequent death and destruction in Gaza. Believes that the urgent priority must be to stop the deaths and suffering of any more civilians in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine.
- Hopes for an immediate further release of all hostages and release of Palestinian prisoners held without charge and an immediate permanent ceasefire to allow more aid and the possibility of a peaceful resolution.
- Believes the tragic recent events in Israel, Gaza and Palestine must not be allowed to divide our communities in Stockport.
- Believes Jews, Muslims and people of all faiths and none should feel safe in our Borough.
- Condemns the increase in anti-Semitic and Islamophobic violence and abuse in the UK and believes all forms of racism have no place in our Borough.

The Council resolves to:

- (i) explore how the Council can better support and facilitate events for people of all faiths and none, where they can come together and express solidarity and sadness in response to these events.
- (ii) offer appropriate support to any local resident who needs our assistance as a result of these violent events.
- (iii) stand ready to provide support and open our arms to innocent people displaced and affected by these events.

The Council also resolves to ask ~~the Chief Executive~~ **all Group Leaders** to write to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs to call on the UK Government to press all parties to agree:

- (i) to an urgent permanent ceasefire in Gaza, Israel and the rest of Palestine and to make every effort to resume the peace process;
- (ii) to guarantee that international humanitarian law is upheld and that civilians are protected in accordance with those laws;
- (iii) to ensure that civilians have access to humanitarian support, including unfettered access to medical supplies, food, electricity, other fuel and water.

Moved by: Councillor Gary Lawson

Seconded by: Councillor James Frizzell