

## **Immediate Ceasefire and Long-term Peace in Gaza**

### **Notice of Motion**

Motion received in terms of Standing Order No 20 on 5 March, 2024, proposed by Councillor Andrea Cowan, seconded by Councillor Elaine McDougall, as follows:-

“Council unequivocally condemns the terrorist attacks by Hamas on 7 October 2023 and calls for the immediate unconditional release of all hostages. Council recognises the rights of Israel, in common with all nations, to protect itself from terror. However, Council asserts that Hamas’ actions are not a justification for genocide – there are no justifications for genocide. Council shares the sorrow and outrage of South Lanarkshire’s Jewish and Muslim Communities and all other like-minded people.

Council recognises that many families and communities in South Lanarkshire are affected by violence in the region, offers condolences to all those who have suffered as a result of this horrific conflict; and resolves to be alert to, and to stand up against, discrimination and hate crime, and resolves that there is no place for antisemitism, Islamophobia or hatred of any kind in our communities.

Council recognises that a humanitarian catastrophe is being inflicted on the civilian population of Gaza by the far-right, Likud-led government of Israel and that this collective punishment has to date resulted in the killing of almost 40,000 civilians including 21,000 women and children. In addition, at least 70,450 people have been wounded and 7000 are missing in the rubble that is Gaza.

Council condemns any military assault on the 1.5 million refugees sheltering in Rafah and demands that the UK Government immediately halts the transfer of all military equipment and technology, including components, to Israel and suspends the issuing of new licences.

Council repeats calls from the Scottish Government asking the UK Government to use the already established UK Resettlement Scheme, which works with the UN High Commission for Refugees, to allow a route to safety for the most vulnerable such as children and families, those with severe health needs, and those with links to residents in Scotland.

Council also calls on the UK Government to support an immediate permanent ceasefire and humanitarian corridor, to commit supplies and aid to mitigate the human tragedy unfolding in Gaza and to be prepared to offer sanctuary and support to Palestinian refugees.

Council further supports moves towards a long-term peace for all communities in Israel-Palestine and urges all international partners to work together to establish a diplomatic process to deliver the peace of a two-state nation.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to both the Scottish First Minister and the UK Prime Minister outlining the details of this motion, as agreed.”